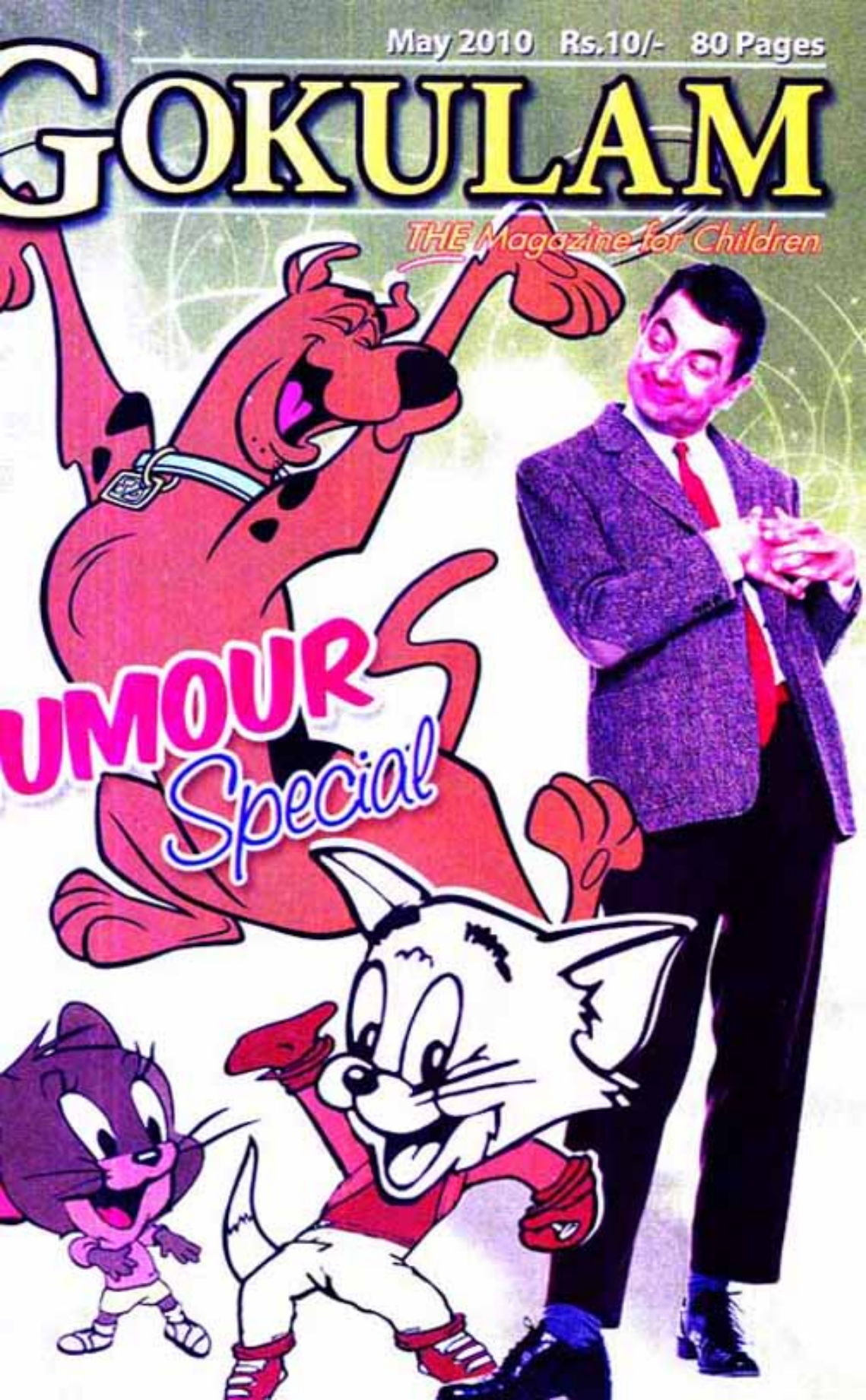
May 2010 Rs.10/- 80 Pages

GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children



PARLE
POPPINS
Doon Kya?
Ram and Shyam
Ghost Ship
PART 2
RECAP: PIRATES LEAD BY BLACKBEARD HIJACK RAM AND SHYAM'S HOLIDAY CRUISE LINER. THE BOYS COME UP WITH A PLAN AND USE THE DEKATRIX TO BECOME INVISIBLE.
CONTINUED...
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THESE PIRATE GOONS. YOU GO TO THE CAPTAIN AND JOIN ME LATER.
GOTCHA!
IN THE CAPTAIN'S DECK...
CAPTAIN, RAM HERE. PRETEND I'M NOT HERE. THIS IS OUR PLAN... PSSST...SSSS...SSS.
MEANWHILE SHYAM IS BUSY...
HEY THAT PAINTING JUST MOVED.
WHAT NONSENSE! IT'S YOUR IMAGINATION.
RAM TOO JOINS SHYAM. TOGETHER, THE BOYS SPOOK THE PIRATES.
BOO!
SOMETHING PULLED MY HAIR!!
THE CHAIRS ARE UPSIDE-DOWN
HEY SOMEBODY MOVED THOSE PLATES.
BACK IN THE CAPTAIN'S DECK...
WEIRD THINGS ARE HAPPENING...
DIDN'T YOU KNOW? THIS SHIP IS HAUNTED.
RUBBISH! GHOSTS DON'T EXIST! GET BACK TO WORK.
AS NEWS OF THE HAUNTING SPREADS AROUND, THE PIRATES JUMP INTO THE SEA WHERE THE COASTGUARD ALERTED BY THE CAPTAIN CAPTURES THEM.
THE CAPTAIN'S MEN WHO ARE FREED BY THE BOYS OVERPOWER BLACKBEARD.
HOW DARE YOU TRICK ME? AAARGGGGGHHH!
ONCE MORE PEACE PREVAILS OVER THE CRUISE LINER.
AHHH! THIS IS MORE LIKE IT.
YUP! NOW WE CAN ENJOY THE REST OF OUR VACATION.
POPPINS

GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children

May 2010 Vol.XXII, No.11

KALKI GROUP HOUSE of QUALITY

Of all created things the loveliest
And most divine are children.
- William Canton

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Cover Design : **Lalithaa**

Thanks to the enthusiastic response from our dear readers, we are continuing with the special issues of Gokulam. Write in relevant contributions with the respective topic marked on the envelope. You could also e-mail your entries to us. The topics and the last dates for receipt of entries are given below :

August	Sports Special	Last date : June 20, 2010
September	Fact Zone Special	Last date : July 20, 2010

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THE Magazine for Children

Dear Reader,

All of us face a number of problems everyday personal, national and sometimes even international If, inspite of such problems a person is able to laugh at a joke, though occasionally it may be at his own expense, then, he or she has a sense of humour! Many great people have this rare quality. Gandhiji when he emerged from the Buckingham Palace, was asked if he felt inadequately dressed in front of His Majesty. "Not at all," replied Gandhiji. "He (the king) was wearing enough for both of us!"

During the British days India was administered by I.C.S. officers (now known as I.A.S.) most of whom were British, or Indians educated in British universities. Subhas Chandra Bose made a sarcastic comment on the I.C.S. cadre : "The I.C.S. is neither Indian, nor Civil, nor was it known for any

* Wit & Humour

Sense of Humour!

Service!" Then there is the remark made by General Patton of the U.S. Army during World War II. Addressing his soilders he said : "You don't serve your country by dying for it; you serve your country by making other soilders die for their country."

There are many other thought provoking quotes attributed to great men, which are remembered with a smile for their wit. As a college student when I entered my class late in the morning, my professor asked, "why are you late?" My immediate response was, "because I couldn't make it earlier, Madam!" Fortunately for me, my professor had a sense of humour!

- Editor

Speak Out

It is rightly said that aughter is the best ıedicine' for all human ills. A smile ın diminish all your problems and fuse strength and energy into your 'stem. As Mark Twain has said, lothing can stand before the assault ' laughter'. Humour livens up our aily life. Reading humorous books eeps us healthy and cheerful. Vatching comedy films makes us appy. Listening to songs that ontain joy and humour pep us p. Scientists believe that human ıind and body an deal with pain etter with the elp of humour. aughter, the human :action to jokes, is ealthy as it releases ndorphins, the atural 'feel ood' chemicals. nother major dvantage of ıughing is that it makes us lose ome extra calories by exercising our omach muscles.

Humour is categorized into ırious colours. Accordingly we ıve red, blue, green and black ımour. Red humour is about teresting and amusing anecdotes of fe under communist rule. Green ımour makes us aware of our natural world in a comical way. It presents to us the seriousness of environment and wildlife related issues in a humorous manner. Blue humour, also known as off-coloured humour, is suitable only for adults. Black humour deals with important social issues and makes the audience/ readers think and ponder over these evils. 'Oliver Twist' written by Charles Dickens is based on dark humour and deals with child labour.

Humour is the best gift a human being can ever receive. So enjoy this multi-coloured gift in all its shades and hues.

- Akanksha.P.Wadhavkar, Age 13, Shantinagar High School, Thane, Maharashtra

When is the last time you laughed aloud quite spontaneously? Does our everyday life have enough laughter in it? Why do we laugh? Because we are happy? Because we find something funny?

Why did the leaves laugh at the bud?

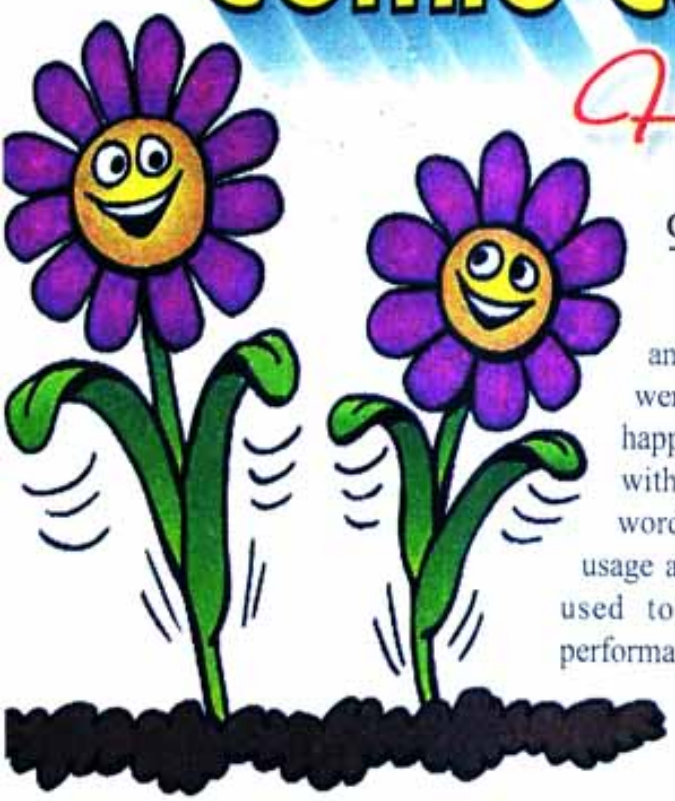
Coz he was making a ph(f)ool of himself! (Phool is flower in Hindi.)

Comedy

The word 'comedy' comes from classical Greek, from words 'komos' (revellery or merry making) and oide(singing). The word 'comic' is used in our times to denote usage related to comedy, to mean laughte provoking. The word 'comic' is als used to denote a picture story, bu that is quite another tale at th moment unrelated to our present subject.

Comic Capers

Ha, ha, h



Comedy then, Comedy now

'Comedy' in times of th ancient Greeks and Roman were actually stage plays wi happy endings. As it happen with languages, meanings o words transform slowly wi usage and the word began to b used to denote any kind o performance that evoked laughte Soon, 'comedy' bega

o mean 'satire' and 'humour' and here we re!

How did the egg cross the road?
It scrambled across!

Did you know that there are different kinds of comedy?

Yes, there are different kinds of ·eing funny, and not all of them are ·ally 'ha, ha'. Let us examine each ·f them :

- *Farce*: Absurd, over-the-top nd impossible situations – usually sed in TV plays.
- *Satire:* Meant to be funny, nd used in the written word or artoons. A way of making fun f human follies, and used by ıe 'satirist' to poke fun at something he/she disapproves.
- *Scatalogical:* Off-colour ›kes usually dealing with human odily functions or body parts. Is also alled 'toilet humour'.
- *Stand-up comedy:* A ·rformance by a stand-up comedian at consists of rapid fire jokes, ınny stories and one liners.
- *Parody:* What is called a ›oof. A funny take on an original 'ork. There are plenty of movies ıat are spoofs or ırodies.
- *Political satire:* Makes fun of politics of the day, by tongue-in cheek language. Usually used as a means of opposition to some political thought.
- *Black comedy:* To make fun of serious matters using satire. Could be things that matter or are going wrong in society today, like war, drug abuse, etc. Usually meant to provoke thought.
- *Comedy of manners:* This is an old-fashioned genre that pokes fun

Sandhya Sridhar

of the way people behave in a society of that time. You can see it sometimes in our movies.

• *Romantic comedy:* Usually movies. These are light-hearted comedies with romance as the theme, and happy endings.

• *Slapstick:* If you remembe Charlie Chaplin or Laurel and Hardy they did this. But otherwise, we have plenty of examples in our own regional films or TV serials. Clowns in circuses used to follow this genre of comedy.

Knock Knock
Who's there?
Hand!
Hand who?
Handover your money!

Puns

Doctor, Doctor I think I'm a adder

Great, can you help me with n accounts, please!

What do you think is th punchline in the above joke? It's th word 'adder' just in case you didn get it. Adder is the name of a snak but in this joke, the word 'adder' meant to indicate someone wh 'adds' as well, though of cours there is no such word as 'adder'. word with two meanings, when use in a sentence like the above, is calle a pun. Puns are used very often make dry, witty jokes.

Here is one more pun based jok

How did the boy feel after bein caned?

Absolutely whacked!

Here, the word 'whacked' mean 'beaten' as well as 'tired'.

Teacher: What's big and yello and comes in the morning t brighten a mother's day?

Pupil: The school bus!

Why are jokes important to us?

Sharing jokes, sharing laugh lightens up our lives and makes u feel happy. Laughing, as you a know, is good for health. 'Humou and laughter strengthen you immune system, boost your energ diminish pain, and protect you fro

he damaging effects of stress' says a website that talks about how good t is to share a joke. By laughing, you essen the tension in your mind and body and become relaxed. Laughter, t is said, even protects the heart, and helps to improve our resistance to diseases and infections.

That's why there are 'Laughter Clubs', where people get together from time to time to laugh out aloud. It is indeed funny though, to see a group of people laughing out aloud all by themselves just for the sake of it.

Mother : How was your first day at school?

Son : It was all right except for some man called 'Teacher' who kept spoiling all our fun!

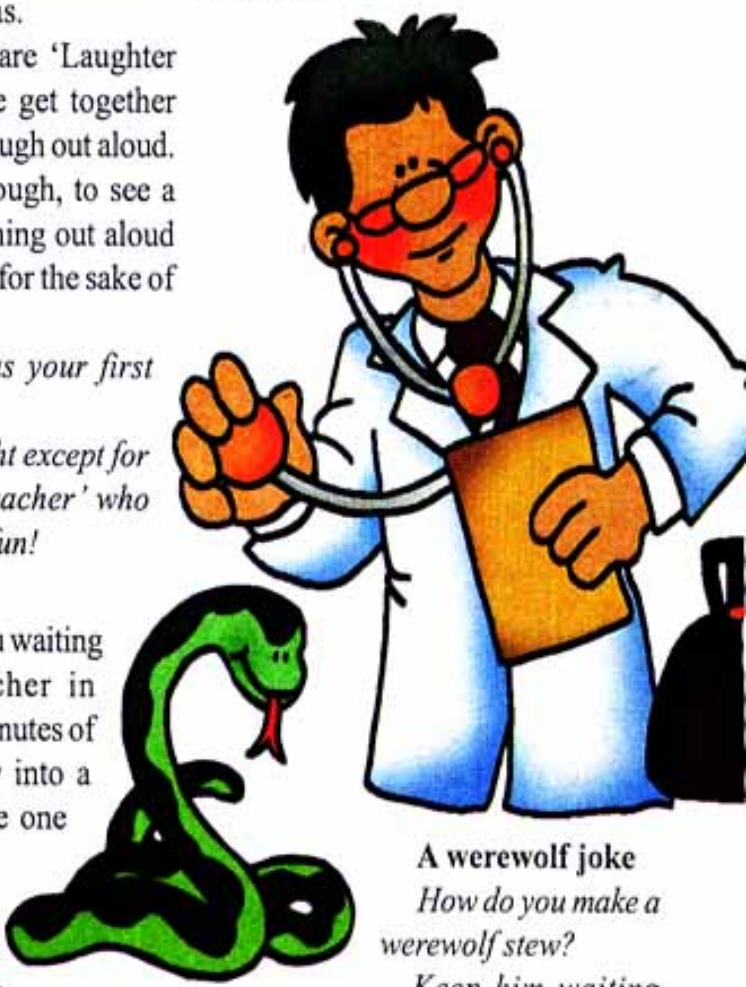
Well, what are you waiting for? Ask your teacher in school to make five minutes of one period every day into a 'laughter time'. Have one or two people share jokes with the others during that time so that, between all the serious business, you do get to laugh as well. If it is not possible to do it during a class period, create a 'laughter time' during one of the breaks. Share jokes, share plenty of laughter, and see how many friends you make! What are you waiting for? Start right now!

Here are some to help you begin:

A witch joke

How is the witches team doing?

They're having a spell in the first division!



A werewolf joke

How do you make a werewolf stew?

Keep him waiting for two hours!

A skeleton joke

What do you call a skeleton that is always telling lies?

A boney phoney!

(Jokes source : Internet)

I am a regular reader of Gokulam and think it is the best magazine for children. I like the posters a lot. I also enjoy reading the new serial story 'Misty Heights'.

- Komal Kashyap, Std.V,
St.Xavier's HS, Bhubaneshwar

The April 2010 'Travel Special' made for excellent reading. The cover story was informative and useful. The article on Ramoji Film City was great as it introduced many readers to this wonderful place in Hyderabad. Hampi made sad reading - a thriving and marvellous city completely destroyed by the savage acts of the invaders. The articles on various tourist places were also interesting.

- V.Mahadevan, Std.XII,
P.S.Sr.Sec. School, Chennai

The 'Harry Potter' special was wonderful and I read and re-read the whole book about 5 times.

- S.Oviya, Std.VIII, JHSS,
Neyveli

Dear Gokulam, you are fabulous. I acquired three pen friends through the Hi-Five column. My favourites are Grandmaworm, Billu and Pyramid Puzzle. The serial story 'Misty Heights' is also very interesting. 'Hats off' to Gokulam!

- B.Gayathri, Std.X
Dayanand Public School, Shiml:

The 'Harry Potter' special wa: really fantastic. Being a HP fan, got a lot of information which I wa: previously not aware of. Thank yo: for publishing my book review. D we get prize money for boo reviews?

(Dear Children, we receive man lovely letters like these but without the writer's name or address. This makes it very

difficult for us to send you the prize money and participation certificates. Do write your name, class, school and complete residential address at the back of all your contribuiions. - Editor)

I thank Gokulam for publishing my view point and sending me the

prize money. Could you please do a 'Cricket' Special?

- Vishishtha Upul, Std.VII, DAV Public School, Ranchi

(Dear Vishishtha, we are planning to do a 'Sports' special in August. Have you seen the announcement in our Contents page? –Editor)

I was excited to see my article 'Nutty Affair' published in the February issue of Gokulam. My friends and teachers congratulated me and asked me to contribute more write-ups.

- Srikanth.M.V, Std.X, Vijaya High School, Bengalooru

Hats off to GOKULAM!!

I liked the cover story 'Eco-Tourism' (April, 2010) as we got to learn many issues which we often overlook or neglect. My younger sister is also fond of reading Gokulam and frequently sends articles but they have never been published, unlike mine. Now she feels that Gokulam does not accept contributions from two people from the same house. Is it so?

- Lakshmi Ajay Kumar, Std.X, St.Arnold's HS, Mumbai

(Dear Lakshmi, the editorial department has just one criterion while selecting the contributions for publishing – the merit of the write-up. The contributor's name, age, school, place of residence – none of these matter. –Editor)

CORRECTION

Questions 23 to 29 of the 'Hey Diddle Riddle' section (page 33) in this issue have been wrongly credited to Antony Agnel. The contributor's name should read as T.M.Shilpa, Std.IX, H.C.C.V., Chennai. The error is regretted.

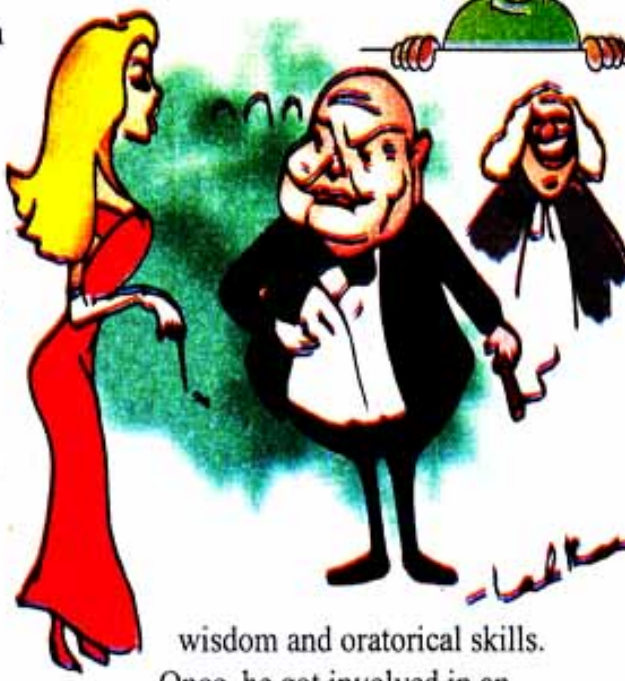
- Editor

Alexandre Dumas was the French author of many famous books including 'The Three Musketeers' and 'The Count of Monte Cristo'. Once, he planned to visit a book shop in the city of Paris. The shop owner who learnt of this plan filled his store with Dumas' books. When the writer arrived at the book shop, he was amazed to see the entire shop stacked with his books. He felt very proud that his books managed to push out titles by other authors. He turned to the store owner and asked him haughtily if his store did not stock books by any other author. The owner was quite disappointed with Dumas' attitude. He expected the author to praise him for stocking his books; instead he was met with an arrogant question. He decided to teach the conceited author a lesson and replied that all the other books were sold out as soon as they hit the shelf! Dumas walked out of the shop silently.

Pablo Picasso was a world famous Spanish painter. Once, he attended an art exhibition in Spain where paintings by all well known painters were exhibited. Some of his paintings were on display too. When Picasso was walking around the hall, an art lover came upto him and told him admiringly that

Down Humou

he was able to see only Picasso's paintings all around him. What he meant was that all the other paintings paled in comparison to Picasso's. Instead of accepting the appreciation gracefully, Picasso replied that he was well aware of the fact that no painter in the present day could match him. This reply upset Picasso's fan and he retorted : "Sir, admiring crowds flock around the paintings of others, blocking them from my view. But, your paintings hang desolate and are therefore visible." Picasso was floored!



Winston Churchill, the British Prime Minister, was well known for his wit, wisdom and oratorical skills. Once, he got involved in an argument with a lady and they both started their war of words. In a fit of temper Churchill called her a buffalo. This upset the lady very much and she decided to take the matter to court. The judges felt that it was

too small an offence to be decided in the court but she insisted that Churchill must be punished for his words. Under pressure, the judges decided to levy a fine of twenty five cents on the offender. Churchill decided to teach the lady a lesson. He paid the fine and apologized for calling a her 'a buffalo'. He promised never to repeat the mistake and asked the judges whether he could call a buffalo 'a lady'. The judges could not object to this! Thanking the judges Churchill immediately turned to the lady and said, "You are a lady!" The crowded court room broke into peals of laughter and appreciated Churchill's instant wit.

George Bernard Shaw, the Irish playwright, was also known for his quick wit and repartee. But one day, he was paid back in his own coin. He was at a grand feast thrown by his ardent admirer. After eating to his heart's content, Shaw let out a loud burp and turned to the host and said in a complaining tone that the dinner was very bad, fit only for beggars. The host was shell shocked for a moment but recovered quickly to reply that he had indeed fed a beggar.

Albert Einstein, the great scientist spotted a boy playing on the street. The youngster was covered with dirt. Einstein called him and promised him a dollar if he would clean himself. The boy took the offer and came back clean. Having given him the promised dollar, Einstein was curious to know how he would spend it. The boy thought for sometime and replied that he would give back the dollar to Einstein if he would get himself a neat hair cut. Einstein walked away without another word.

- S.Brahadeesh, Std.VIII,
Space Central School,
Sullurpeta, Nellore

Resume

The Thinking Machine!

Name	: Computer
Date of Birth	: 1822
Place of Birth	: London
Father's Name	: Professor Charles Babbage
Mother's Name	: Lady Ada Lovelace
Favourite Food	: Chips
Favourite Dress	: Soft'ware'
Best Friend	: Mouse
Favourite Alphabet	: Letter 'C'
Friends	: Computer Engineers
Lucky Numbers	: 0, 1
Health Issues	: May suffer from occasional 'Virus' attacks
Aim	: To think like 'man'

- C.S.M.Harish, Std.VII, Vedavalli Vidyalaya Sr. Sec. School, Walajapet

FUN TIPS

Do you know that humour can work wonders to break monotony or dissolve tension while conversing with your friends? Everybody loves a humourous person. Intersperse your conversation with jokes, amusing incidents and funny one-liners – you will find all your friends hanging on to each and every word you speak! You may use jokes from various sources, but re-tell them in your own voice, style and gesture. Just ensure that you do not make fun of others.

- Abhishek.R, Std.VIII, KV-1, Mangalore

My relatives want me to become a doctor but my ambition is to become an engineer. Please advise.

- Nagarjun, Erode

Dear Nagarjun,

Being a doctor or engineer is not easy. They are very responsible professions requiring talent and dedication. Any negligence, wrong diagnosis or mis-calculation will lead to disaster, including loss of lives. To become a doctor, you must be deeply interested in biology and allied subjects in the group. To be an engineer you should be happy with mathematics and affiliated subjects. You must posses a sense of service to society in both professions. Your aptitude must decide on whether you want to become a doctor or engineer. Don't be carried away by what others tell you. It is your future and you have to take the right decision. From your letter, I come to know that you are thirteen years old. You have a couple of more years to decide. Think deeply and make the right choice. Good luck!

Carrying Tales! Spreading Rumours

One of my friends wants me to

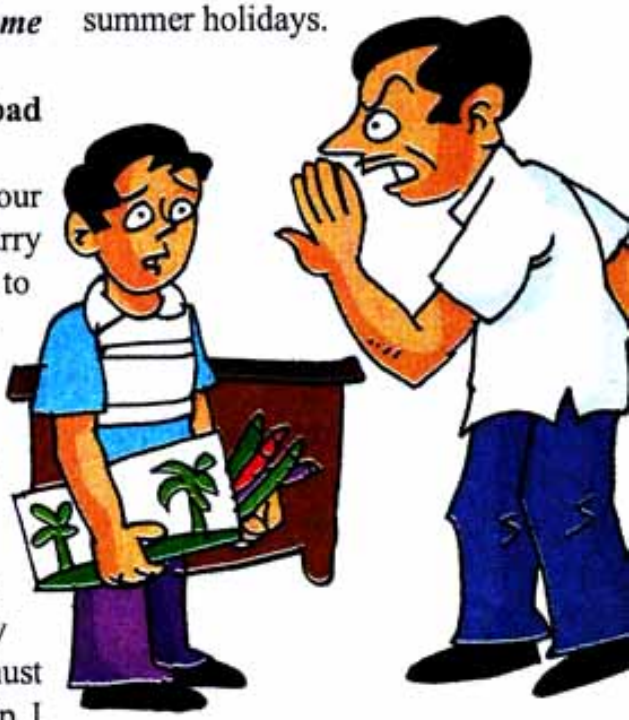
Grandmaworm

How am I to usefully spend my vacation which is about to begin? Can you suggest some hobbies?

- Swarnalakshmi, Chennai

Dear Swarna,

There are so many hobbies to choose from - painting, knitting, sewing, reading, stamp collecting, singing, gardening, doll making, bird watching and so on. A hobby should not be restricted to the summer holidays.



It should be part of your entire life. So, choose the hobby in which you are deeply interested. Ofcourse you cannot spend as much time on it as you did during holidays,

'alk to her only. If I talk with someone else, she spreads false 'umours about me! Please tell me 'how to avoid her.

- G.Sirisha, Hyderabad

Dear Sirisha,

Avoiding her will not solve your problem, for, she's likely to carry more tales about you. Continue to be friendly with her but also be frank. Tell her that friendship is like rain, which is common and beneficial to all. It has to be shared with everyone around you for mutual benefit. There can be an intimate friendship with one person but generally speaking, every body you meet must feel the warmth of your friendship. I think she will understand and stop spreading rumours about you. A person who carries tales about others will never be looked upon as a true friend by anyone.

but don't give it up after school reopens. Even the small amount of time you are able to spare for it will refresh you.

I love drawing. I want to go to drawing class to improve my ability. But my father says that I can practise by myself at home. What am I to do?

- Aravind Srinivasan, Delhi

Dear Aravind,

If your father is not encouraging you in your love for drawing, there must be some reason for it. Perhaps he is afraid that your time and attention will be diverted from your lessons. Or, he may not be able to afford the fees for your drawing class. He may feel that if you become an artist in future, you may not earn well to support yourself. Talk to him politely when he is free and relaxed. Find out what objection he has and try to convince him. Balance your love for art with his concerns and find a way out in between. I'm sure he will view the matter sympathetically.

Please suggest some good books to read during summer hols. I am confused and unable to choose.

- N.Adaikkappan, Bengalooru

Dear Adaikkappan,

The books that you read must suit your level of understanding. Choose accordingly and gradually go up to next higher levels. Your choice of books must include modern writers like Enid Blyton and also classical works like Treasure Island or Uncle Tom's Cabin. You can start with retold versions of shakespere's stories or Walter Scott's novels and read the originals when you are ready for them. Good reading.

Love,
Grandmaworm

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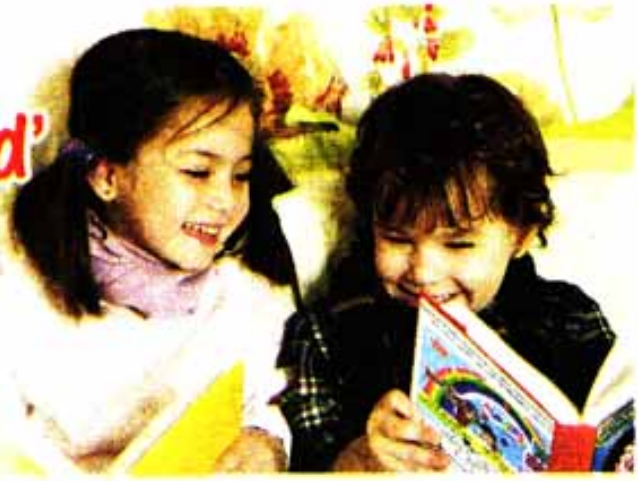
THE Magazine for Children

The 'Must Read' Magazine for Children



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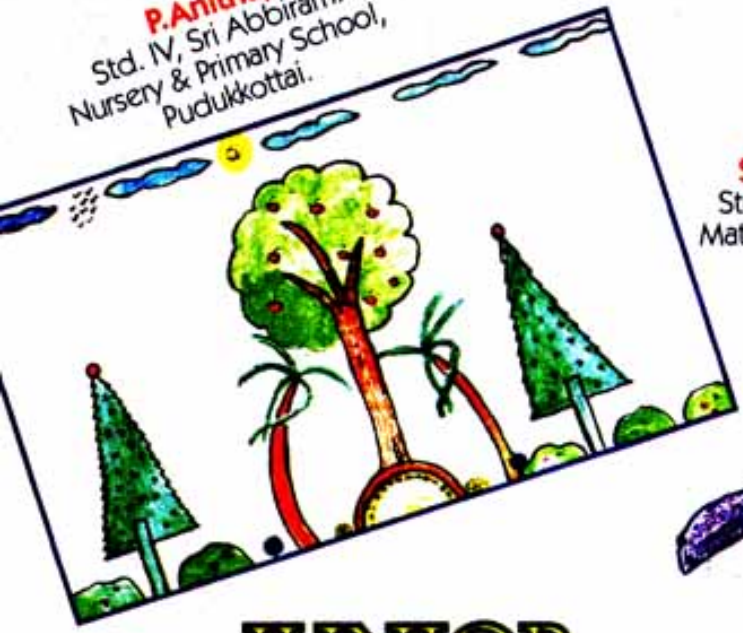

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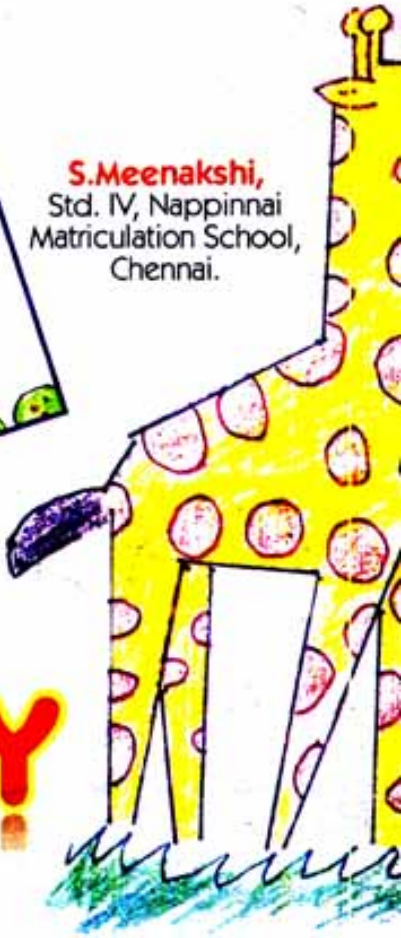

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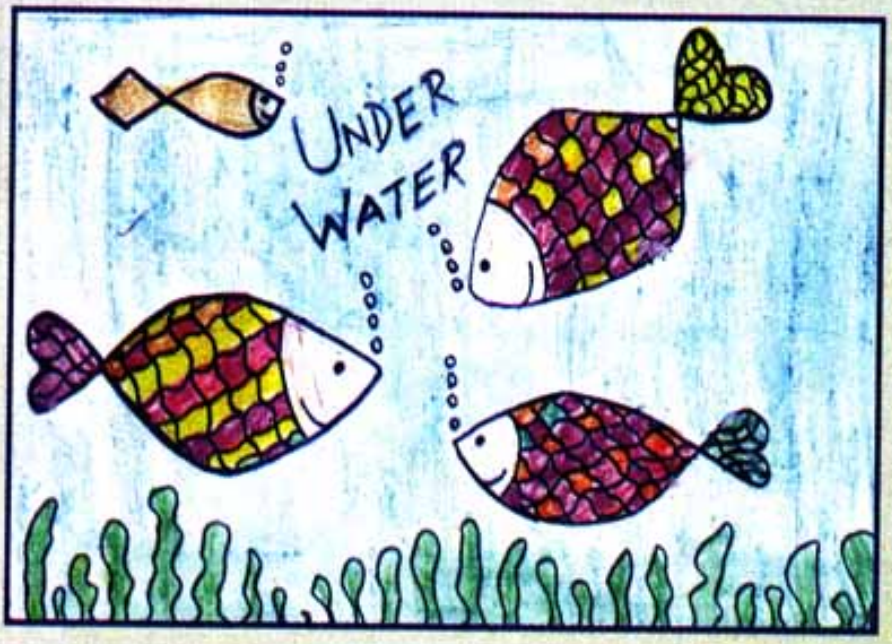

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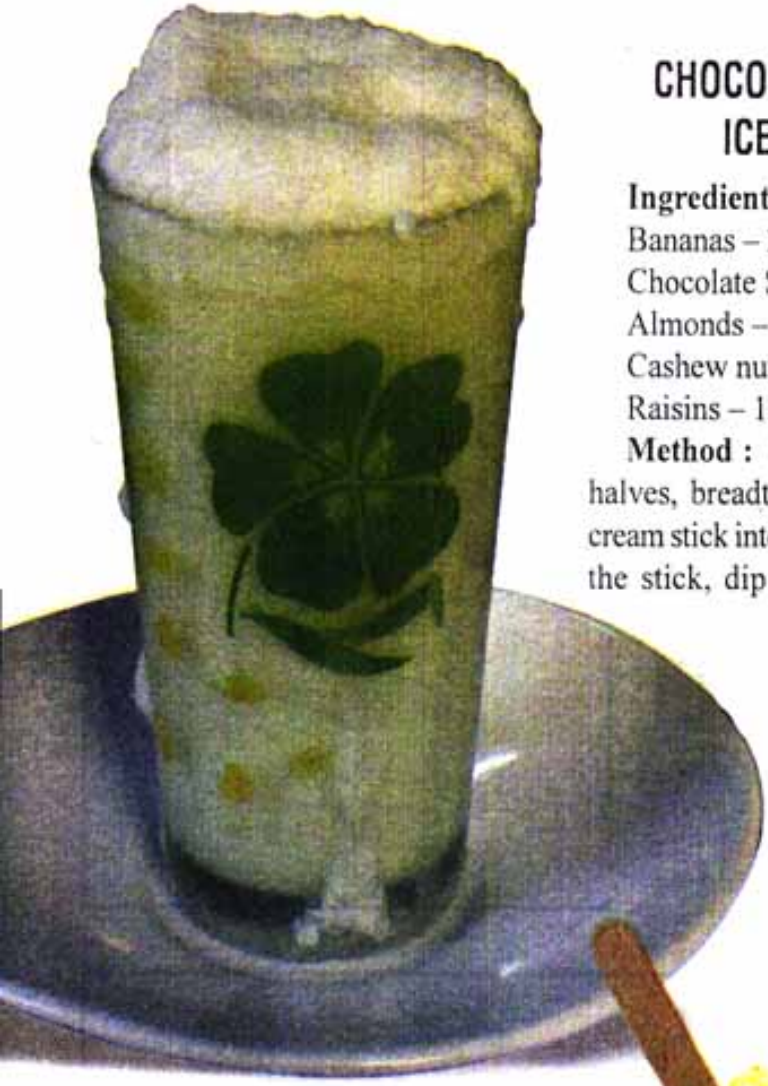
Std. I, N.S.N. Matriculation School,
Chennai.



CHOCONUT-BANANA ICE CREAM

Ingredients :

Bananas – 2
Chocolate Syrup – 1 cup
Almonds – 8 nos.
Cashew nuts – 10 nos.
Raisins – 15 nos.

Method : Cut the bananas into halves, breadth wise. Insert an ice cream stick into the banana. Holding the stick, dip the banana into the

It is May, one of the hottest months of the year. And there is no better way to beat the heat than to drink glasses and glasses of cool *lassi* (our very own Indian thirst quencher). Ice creams are in demand too! Given below are two 'cool' recipes, easy to make and fun to share, and quite filling too!

cup of chocolate syrup. The banana should be completely covered with the syrup. Cut the nuts into small pieces and sprinkle them on the choco-banana. Do the same with other banana pieces. Refrigerate them for a few hours. Your yummy choconut-banana ice cream is ready to be eaten. Beat the heat with your own home made ice cream.

- Apoorva.D.Shenoy, Std.XI, Bhavan's Junior College, Mumbai

LASSI

Ingredients :

Curd – 2 cups
Sugar – 3 tsp
Salt – ¼ tsp
Water – ½ glass
Ice Cube – 8 pieces

Method : Whip curd and water well in a blender. Add sugar, salt and the ice cubes and blend once again at high speed till the top layer becomes frothy. Your cool, cool *lassi* is ready to be served. This drink provides us with energy and also quenches thirst. Drinking it has no harmful side effects either. Start reaching out for lassi instead of fizzy colas.

- S.Bhargavi, Std.VI, Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya, Port Blair

CHILL FILLS!

My Dear Brother!

His kite would fly
Blue over the sky
But he would stop mine mid-fligh
That's my brother!

Once when I was asleep
He slowly crept near me
And chopped off my locks
That's my brother!

And when I screamed
He coolly informed me
"Its fashion, dear sis"
That's my brother!

He'd make me some toys
He'd blow some bubbles
And also burst my balloons
That's my brother!

- A.Ajitha Bharath
Std.XI, A.K.T. MHS
Kallakurich
Tamilnad

My Favourite Pouch

It was a day I'll never forget
When I lost my favourite pouch,
It was the cutest that I could ever get
And so unhappily I sat on the couch.

I suddenly remembered to have
left it in the bus
My mother scolded me for making
such a fuss,
The next day when I asked the driver about it
He said that somebody else had taken it.

My heart sank and I felt lost
I cried and wept, and then I thought
To write a poem about this situatior
And so I searched for my cherished pen.

I found a book but not my pen
Because I realized only then
That the pen was inside the pouch,
And sadly, once again, I sat on the couch

- Ashwini Velmurugan, Std.X
Maharishi Vidya Mandi
Hosu

Off to Humour Land...

Once I went to humour land
It was all made of sand,
Instead of plants houses grew
And men watered them with brew!

The people were quite funny
I found them selling money,
Like insects they crawled on the ground
While animals were talking and
going around!

Then a boy came to me
I was even more surprised to see,
With bread in a cup and a plate of tea!
And slates grew on a tree!

Suddenly I heard a sound
And then when I looked around,
Alas, it had all been a funny dream
Oh, what a scream!

- Kanishka Ganeriwal,
Std.VI, Chaitanya Vidyalaya,
Hyderabad

Tongue Twisters

A big bug bit the little beetle but the little beetle bit the big bug back.

If two witches were watching two watches, which witch would watch which watch?

If you notice this notice, you will notice that this notice is not worth noticing!

- Darshana.N.Dawda, Std.XI, Mulund College of Commerce, Thane

Frenzy's friends fought with Frenzy, so Frenzy fought with her friends but Frenzy's friends made up with Frenzy, so Frenzy made up with her friends and Frenzy and Frenzy's friends became fast friends.

- S.Aishwarya, Std.VIII, Mahathma Gandhi Centenary Vidyalaya, Trichy

Nine nice night nurses nursing nicely.

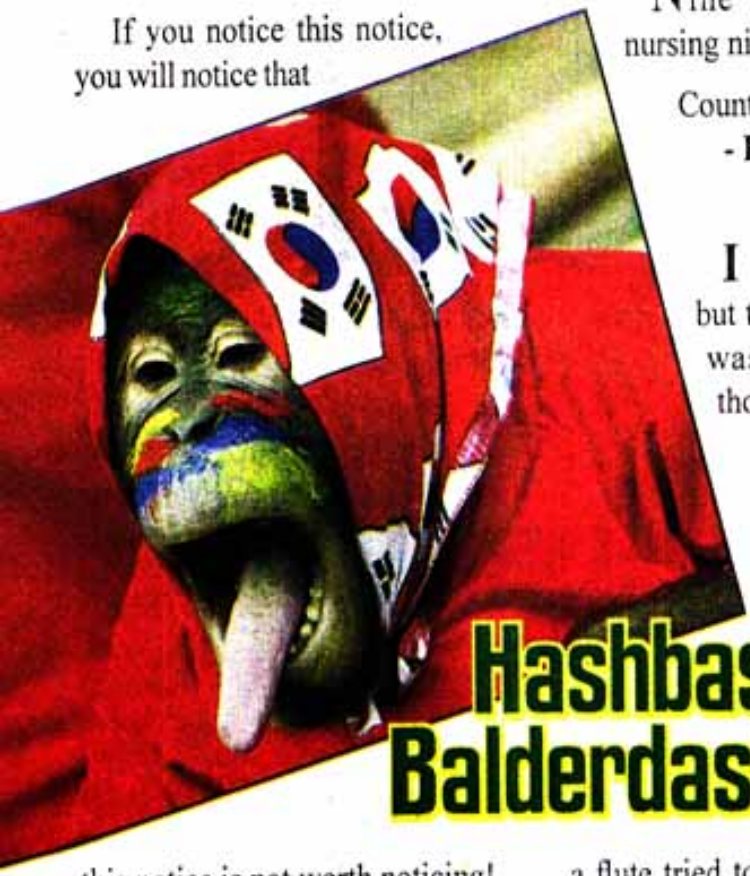
Count crows cawing close.

- K.Monica, Std.VIII, DAV, Chennai

I thought a thought but the thought I thought wasn't the thought I thought I thought!

A tutor who tooted a flute tried to tutor two tooters to toot but said it was harder to tutor two tooters to toot than to toot a flute.

- G.S.Harish Kanth, Std.VIII, Jaigopal Garodia Vivekananda Vidyalaya, Chennai

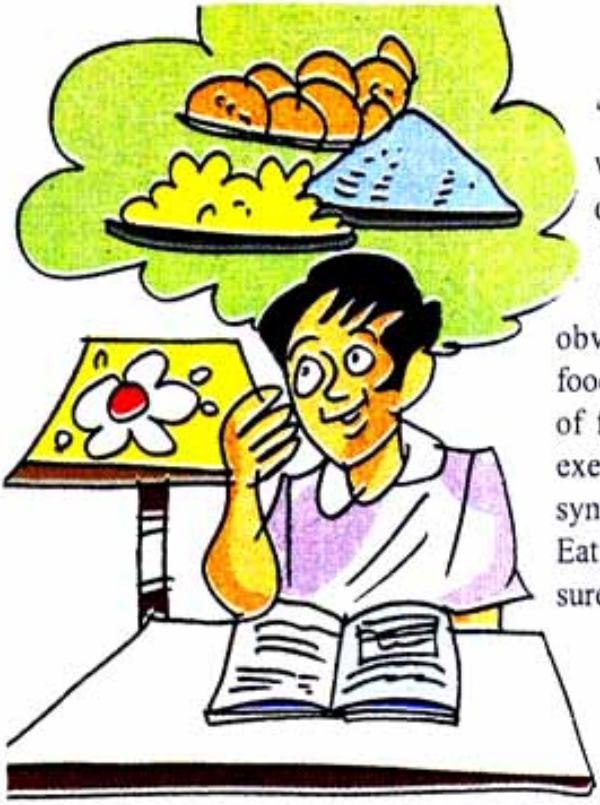


Hashbash Balderdash!

(Compiled by our readers)

Answers : 1.Kite 2.Flower 3.Stones 4.Sun 5.Fruits

FIND THE DIFFERENCES



'diet' would make the body weak. It is risky and even dangerous. It may induce unnatural cravings. When the stomach is empty it is pretty obvious that you would think of food. Take a balanced diet with lots of fruits, nuts and vegetables and exercise daily. A healthy body is synonymous with a healthy mind. Eat healthy, be cheerful and you are sure to do well in your studies.

***I** have been suffering from tonsillitis for the past six years. My father has imposed strict restrictions on my diet and does not allow me to take tea and*

***I** would like to diet. But I have also heard that teenagers who diet are unable to concentrate on their studies/ books. Is this true?*

- V.Deepak Ramanan,
Std.VIII, TVS MHSS,
Madurai

A Peculia

Dieting in its real sense means intake of balanced food. But teenagers have the tendency of equating diet with a drastic reduction in food intake. This is not the correct procedure. This type of

Dr.N.A.Jayavelan as told to G.S.S.

Ask the Doc

My mother tells me to eat neem leaves on an empty stomach. She says that the leaves will kill all the germs in my stomach. Is this true? What are the other benefits of eating neem leaves?

- Rakshana.S, Std.VII,
St.Francis Anglo Indian Girls High School, Coimbatore

If you like the taste of neem leaves, you may chew them. However many children find it difficult to eat them raw. It is best to consume the very tender leaves, small and greenish-brown in colour, as they are less bitter in taste. But take care to clean the leaves so that any dust accumulated on them gets washed away. In *siddha* medicine, neem is considered to possess rich medicinal value. In allopathy, no research results have been published to prove that neem has worm killing tendency. However these leaves have antiseptic property which is recognized by doctors.

oft drinks. But I love to drink hem? What should I do?

- M.Nagarjun, Std.VIII,
Palaniammal MHSS, Erode

Drinking tea should not be a

roblem!

roblem in your case. Soft rinks, if not prepared ygienically and when ıey are very cold may ause some issues. lome-made fruit ıices at room :mperature are not armful. However if ou happen to drink ɔft drinks or have ice 'eam, gargle your throat ith boiled, warm water efore going to bed.

Everybody says that

listening to music reduces our tension and calms our mind. I listen to my favourite songs every night on the earphone for about half-an-hour. But my parents say that earphones will damage our ear drum. I am confused. Please help!

- S.A.Dilshath Begam, Std.VIII, Atomic Energy Central School, Anupuram, Tamil Nadu

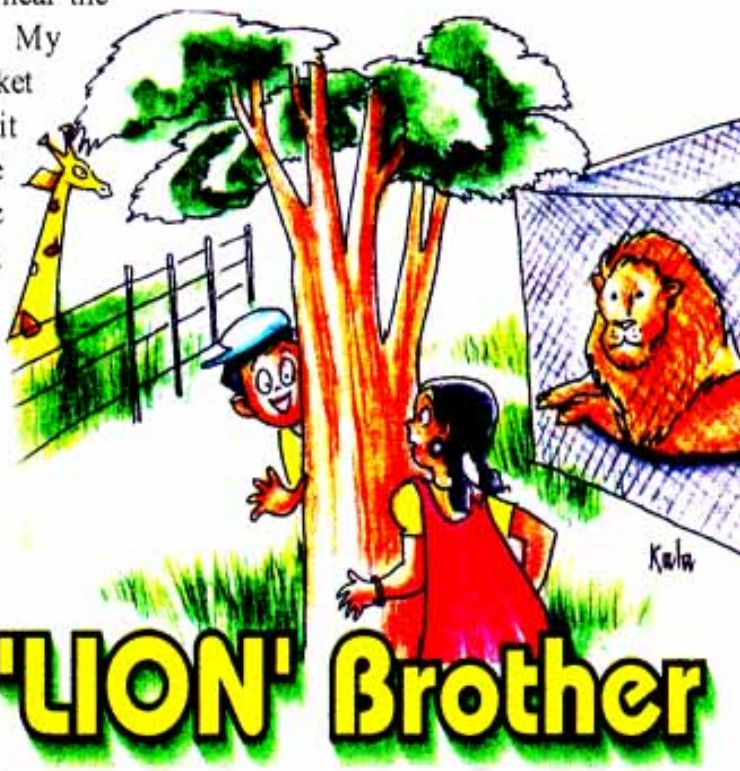
You are right...your parents are also right! Using ear phones on a regular basis could damage your ears in the long run. They are also one of the leading causes of ear infection. At the same time, it is a proven fact that music reduces our tension and calms our mind. The best option would be to hear your favourite songs on a portable tape recorder/ CD player. Keep the recorder on a table near your bed and let the soft music fill your room. Don't go in for loud or heavy music.

I have a peculiar problem. When I sleep for more than five hours, I get a severe headache. Can you suggest some remedies?

- M.Swarnalakshmi, Std.XII, Jawahar HSS, Chennai

Sleeping for more than five hours at night should not cause any headache for a normal person. I would advise you to have a complete health check up. Sinusitis can be a reason for the headache. Visual problems or problems related to teeth are also other likely causes. Even general weakness and anaemic condition may result in such headaches. Inform your parents of your problem immediately. Go to a good doctor who will find the cause and suggest a suitable solution too.

'LION' Brother



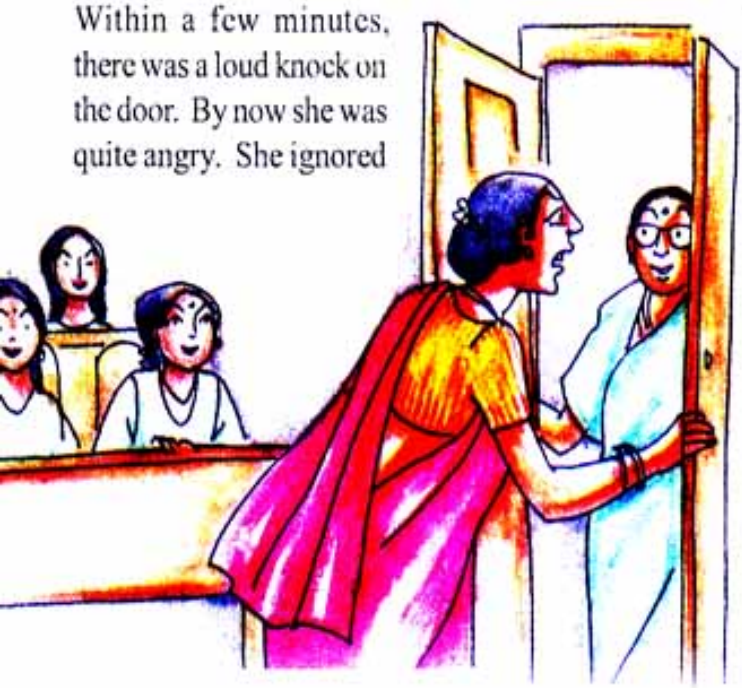
I had gone to the Nehru Zoological Park in Hyderabad with my parents and younger brother. By afternoon we had almost covered half the zoo and were quite tired. We were hungry too and decided to sit for sometime and eat our lunch. We found a shady tree near the lion's enclosure. My mother spread a blanket and I plonked on it immediately. We opened our picnic hamper and started eating. While I was busily munching on the *parathas*, I suddenly heard a loud roar close to me. I jumped up in fright thinking that the lion had escaped from the cage and was about to attack us. It was then that my befuddled mind registered the laugh. I turned around and found my brother holding his sides and laughing madly. My parents were also laughing by now. I was really embarrassed when I realized that I had got scared by my brother's silly prank. Since then, my family keeps on teasing me about it and calls me a 'scaredy rat'.

- Soundarya, Std.VII, St. Andrew's School, Secunderabad

KNOCK... KNOCK!

It was a hot afternoon and our lunch hour was just over. We sauntered into the class in small groups and were surprised to find our Hindi teacher already present in the class. She was annoyed that the period had started and only half the class was inside the room. She started the lesson when another bunch of students walked in. She

excused them and continued with the lesson only to be interrupted by yet another group seeking entry. Our teacher got irritated by these repeated disturbances and closed the door. Within a few minutes, there was a loud knock on the door. By now she was quite angry. She ignored



the knock and continued with the lessons. The knock was repeated, more loudly this time. The teacher opened the door shouting, "I will not let you enter my class. You can stand outside in the corridor itself." And outside the door stood our surprised science teacher! The whole class started laughing immediately. Our teacher explained the matter to the science teacher and both of them joined in our laughter.

- Yogendra Varma, Std.VI, Chattisgarh

THIRSTY MONKEY

Last year, in the month of May, visited Agra to attend the graduatio ceremony of my elder brother. It wa really hot and we fe thirsty. We drank bottle of aerate cool drink and als bought an extr bottle which m mother carrie under her arm Suddenly we wer surrounded by a group of monkeys. One of them came near m mother and tugge

at her saree. My mother realized tha it wanted the bottle of cool drink an gave it immediately. The monke ran away with the bottle, sa

comfortably on a branch and started drinking the cool drink. My father, who had a camera with him caught a snap of the monkey. I was truly surprised by the monkey's cool and sensible behaviour.

- Abheeshek Sahral,
Std.VIII,
Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan

FUNNY DOUBT

One day, during our science period, our teacher was discussing first aid for snake bites. He explained to us that in case of a snake bite we should tie a bandage or a long piece of cloth tightly, above the bite mark. This would prevent the poison from spreading to the rest of the body, especially the heart. The afflicted person would have to lie still and not move around too much. After talking in detail for a few more minutes he asked us whether we had any doubts in the lesson. We all kept quiet when one of my classmates raised his hand. He got up and asked where should the bandage be tied incase of snake bite in the neck. We all started laughing at his 'funny' but valid doubt. The teacher explained that the person must be taken to the doctor within an hour of the incident.

- V.Varun Kumar, Std.XI,
Christ The King MHSS,
Kumbakonam

1) Why do witches ride on a broom stick?

2) How did the egg feel when it saw its mother hen?

3) Why was the astronomer expelled from his school?

4) How do vampire doctors call out to their patients?

- Sheethal.R.Holla, Std.VIII, J.K.V, Bengalooru

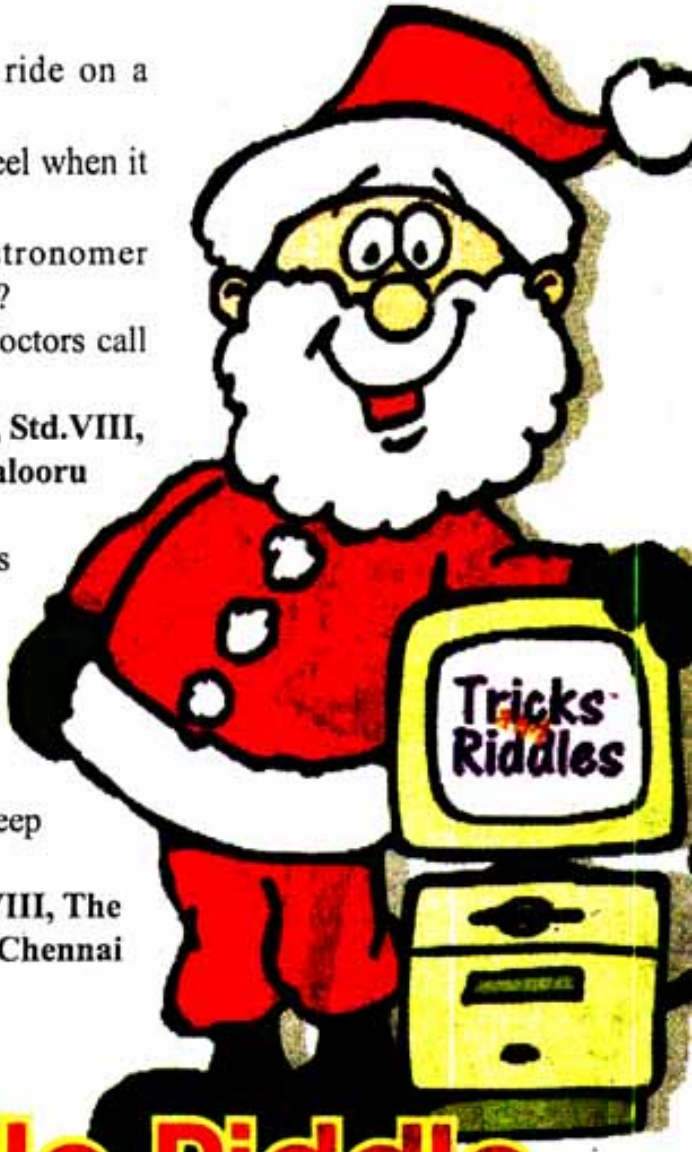
5) With what do rabbits comb their fur?

6) Which knights rode camels?

7) Where do fish wash their vessels?

8) Why can't horses sleep at night?

- M.Teena, Std.VIII, The Holy Cross MHSS, Chennai



Hey Diddle Riddle...

9) What is hard to beat?

10) Why are we tired on the 1st of April?

11) How can we make the varnish disappear?

- Vyshali Bhat, Std.VII, Little Rock Indian School, Udupi

12) What did one alien say to the other?

- S.Supraja, Std.VI, Green Fields School, New Delhi

13) As long as I eat I live, but I die when I drink. Who am I?

Think Tank

14) Why are cooks cruel?

- Rajeshwari Kamath, Std.IV, DAV Public School, Chennai

15) What is it that occurs once in every minute, twice in a moment but never in a year?

16) Can you name the two sides of a circle?

17) What always tastes hot but has ice in it?

18) If 5 children can eat 5 apples in 5 minutes how long will it take for 100 children to eat 100 apples?

19) Which side of the cup is its handle?

- Aishwarya.K.Vishwanath, Std.VIII, Prarthana School

20) What happens when the frog's car breaks down?

21) Why do cats and dogs turn round and round before sleeping?

22) Where does a frog with poor eye sight go?

- R.Sadhvika, Std.IX, Crea Children's Academy, Trichy

23) What has a head and a foot but no arms?

24) What kind of keys do kids like to carry?

25) Why did the robber take a bath before stealing from the bank?

26) What happens if you eat yeast and shoe polish at night?

27) How many books can you keep in an empty backpack?

28) What is the best time to visit the dentist?

29) Why was there thunder and lightning in the lab?

- Antony Agnel, Std.IX, DAV, Chennai.

ANSWERS: 1) They can't afford vacuum cleaners! 2) Eggcited! 3) He was always staring into space. 4)Necks (next), please! 5) Hare brush 6) Arabian Nights! 7) In the river basin 8) Because they are nightmares 9) A drum with a hole 10) We have had a long march! 11) Remove the 'r' and it will vanish! 12)Does earth support life? 13) Fire 14) They beat the eggs and whip the cream! 15) The letter 'm' 16) Inside and Outside 17) Spice 18) 5 minutes 19) On the outside 20) It gets 'toad' away 21) One good turn deserves another 22)To a 'Hoptician' 23) A bed 24) Coo-kies 25) He wanted to make a clean get-away! 26) You will rise and shine in the morning! 27) One! After that it is not empty! 28) Tooth-hurty (2:30) 29)The scientists were brain storming!

'Hail' Hilter

Charlie

A coat too small and ill fitting, loose trousers, large shoes, a derby hat, a cane and a ridiculous moustache plus loads and loads of sheer genius – all these add upto just one name, Charlie Chaplin. Essaying the title role of 'the little tramp' in innumerable films, Chaplin created an immortal character in the world of on-screen humour.

Charlie Spencer Chaplin was born in London on the 16th of April, 1889. Both his parents were small time actors and singers, and little Charlie gravitated to the stage at a very young age and showed a natural talent to act, mime and sing.

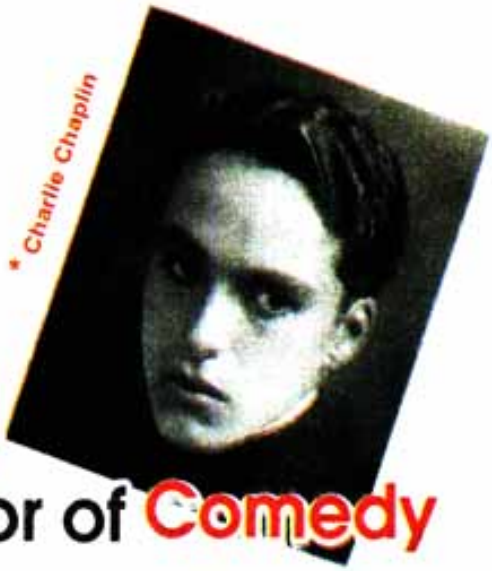
He toured the United States as a part of a famous stage troupe where he was spotted by the producers of Keystone Film Company and was cast in a film. Unfortunately, Charlie's first film was a disaster. Luckily, he was given a second chance in the movie 'Kid Auto Race

Chaplin - The Emperor of Comedy

at Venice' in year 1914. It was for this movie that Charlie Chaplin put together the character of the little tramp, which proved to be an instant success. He developed this foolish, mischievous yet lovable little man whose popularity continues to amuse audiences till date. Appearing in successive films as the little tramp, Chaplin managed to evoke both laughter and sympathy at the same time. His movies were a great success and by 1917 he was making over half a million dollars for eight pictures, a fabulous sum in those days! His silent movies were a hit with all sections of society.

Chaplin's tramp appeared in many classic silent films like 'The Kid' (1921) and 'The Gold Rush' (1925). By now talkies had replaced the silent movies but Chaplin preferred making silent movies as he firmly believed that acting was better understood by audiences, than words or dialogues. 'City Lights' released in 1931 was the first film to feature a music score composed by Chaplin himself. In 'Modern Times' he combined comedy with social commentary and fine technical craftsmanship. As World War II began, Chaplin made 'The Great Dictator' (1940), which was intended to ridicule the German dictator, Adolf Hitler.

Though his films were huge successes, his political views and left leanings were not appreciated in the United States. In 1952 he decided to shift base to Vevey in Switzerland where he stayed till his death in 1977. And the little tramp continues to enthrall audiences all over the world even decades after his death- a truly astounding feat!



* Charlie Chaplin

- J.Vishnu, Std.XI,
Sunbeam MHSS, Vellore

* The Albatross

An elephant can smell water three miles away.

The fastest growing plant is the bamboo. Some varieties grow upto three feet a day.

- Aditya Sarangi, Std.VI, St.Anne's Convent School, Baripada, Orissa

The sun has a bright yellow surface with dark patches called sun spots. These spots are areas of cooler gas. They look tiny on the sun's surface but are many times bigger than our earth.

If you live in Mercury you would celebrate your birthday every three months as this planet completes a revolution in 88 days.

- G.Monisha Gengashri, Std.IX, P.S.G.R Krishnammal Hr. Sec. School, Coimbatore

The World's largest earthworms are the Giant Gippsland earthworm found in Australia.

Bird eating Spider!

* The Goliath Bird-eating Spider

* The 'Tiniest' Frog

The biggest of them are nearly 6 m long.

The smallest frog in the world was recently discovered in Cuba. They measure only 1 cm in length!

The world's largest spider is the Goliath Bird-eater spider. These spiders' legs span upto 11 inches. Due to their comparatively large size they prey upon lizards, bats, small birds and rats.

- M.A.Ramya, Std.VII,
Bala Vidya Mandir, Chennai

* The Polar Bear

The polar bear has two thick layers of fur and also a layer of fat under its skin to protect it from the severe cold. The white fur helps it to blend in the icy surroundings and protects it from the predators. Likewise, its prey is also unable to spot it. The polar bear has a very strong sense of smell. It's claws are sharp and curved enabling it to walk on ice easily.

- S.Vignesh, Std.VII,
KV – 1, Bengalooru

* The Cat Fish

An albatross can sleep while it flies! It dozes off when cruising at a speed of 25mph.

Dogs have 1700 taste buds, humans have 10,000 and catfish have 100,000! A catfish's entire body is covered with taste buds and helps it to locate food, even in dark, murky water.

- Harini Sankar,
Std.VI,
New Baldwin
Residential School

The strongest insect is the rhinoceros beetle which can support almost 800 times its own weight.

- M.A.Ramya, Std.VII,
Bala Vidya Mandir,
Chennai

Name : **Ramsudharsan.M**
Age : 13
Address : 2/46, 8th St, Raghava Nagar, Madipakkam, Chennai - 600091
Hobbies : Playing badminton, reading story books, making new friends.

Name : **M.Vishal**
Age : 14
Address : Roll No - 4089, Wodeyar House, Sainik School, Bijapur, Karnataka - 586102
Hobbies : Swimming, horse riding, reading Harry Potter and Sherlock Holmes' novels, surfing the net, playing computer games.

Name : **M.Nagarjun**
Age : 13
Address : 10, Pumping Station Rd – 2, Thirunagar Colony, Erode, Tamil Nadu - 638003
Hobbies : Playing football, cricket, reading magazines and books, drawing, listening to songs.

Name : **Sourabh Tripathy**
Age : 13
Address : Alok Nagar, PO Rajendra College, Balangir, Orissa - 767002
Hobbies : Playing games, reading books, collecting stamps, listening to music.

My Dear Friend...

Name : **S.Andal Subbulaxmi**
Age : 14
Address : Plot no: 137, Swami Vivekananda Nagar, Moondrumavadi, K.Pudur, Madurai - 7
Hobbies : Chatting with friends, surfing the net, playing shuttle, drawing, dancing.

Name : **Anisha Leij**
Age : 14
Address : C/o Yai Lazi, P.O. Govt.

Hr. Sec. School, Doimukh, Dist. Papum Pare, Arunachal Pradesh – 791112.

Hobbies : Cycling, dancing, reading novels and fairy tales, listening to music, watching T.V, collecting recipes, playing with Barbie dolls.

Name : **S.Supraja**

Age : 12

Address : No.866, Sector – 3, R.K.Puram, New Delhi - 110022

Hobbies : Playing badminton, reading adventure books, playing internet games.

Name : **S.A.Dilshath Begum**

Age : 13

Address : No.1, Barani, Anupuram Township, Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu - 603127

Hobbies : Listening to songs, chatting with friends, watching movies, reading 'famous five', drawing, dancing, singing, surfing the net.

Name : **Aruna.E**

Age : 16

Address : 5-A, North Car St, Panagudi, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu

Hobbies : Watching T.V, chatting with friends, listening to music

Name : **S.Oviya**

Age : 13

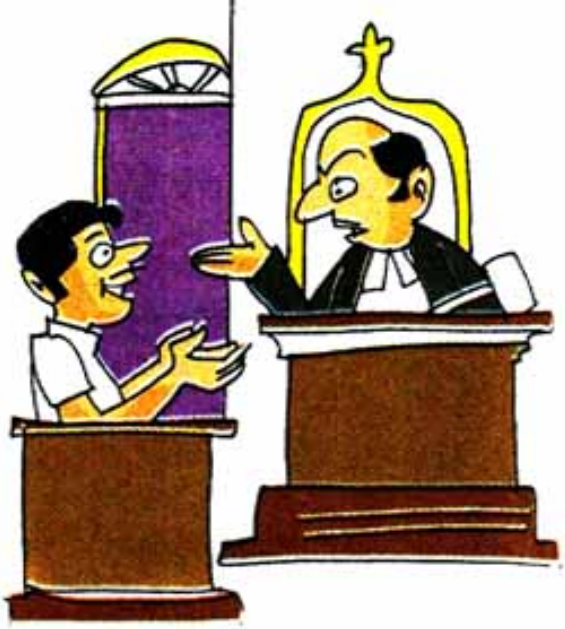
Address : C-9, Thiruvalluvar Salai, Block – 17, Neyveli, Tamil Nadu - 607801

Hobbies : Reading, dancing, singing, listening to music, drawing, surfing the net.

GOKULAM

POSTER

ফিল্মফেয়ার



Maths teacher : If I cut an apple and two bananas into 10 pieces and add 5 cherries, what will I have?

Mohan : A bowl of fruit salad!!

- P.A.Veda Varsha, Bengalooru

Postman : Huff..puff..I had to trudge 3 kms uphill to deliver this letter.

Girl : Why didn't you post it?

☺ ☺ ☺

Son : Dad, will you do my maths home work for me?

Father : No son, it would not be right.

Son : Well, you could try.

☺ ☺ ☺

Professor : Could you please pay a little attention?

Student : I am already paying as little as I can!

☺ ☺ ☺

Judge : Why did you steal the car?

Prisoner : I had a perfectly good reason, your honour. It was parked near the cemetry, so I thought the owner was dead!

- C.Sai Sudharshan, Std.IX, P.S.Sr.Sec.School, Chennai

Teacher : Can you name any

multifaceted (talented) personality?

Raghu : Ravan, he has ten faces!!

- Pooja.S.Bhat, Std.XII, Jyothi Nivas, Bengalooru

Teacher : Why is your note book so old and worn out?

Guffaws!

Mother : Eat the spinach, Nicky. It will put colour into your cheeks.

Son : Who wants green checks, mom?

- M.Nandhini, Std.IX,
St.Joseph's Anglo Indian School,
Trichy

Mother : Raju, what happened? Why are you crying?

Raju : Mummy, one of the kids bashed me up.

Mother (angrily) : How dare he hit you..can you identify him?

Raju : Sure...two of his teeth are in my pocket!!

- Rakshith.N, Std.VII,
Carmel High School,
Bengalooru

Mukesh : That's my history note ook!

- N.Adaikkappan,
Std.X, DPS, Bengalooru

Jest' Time!

Judge : Why did you steal this nan's purse?

Thief : I did not steal, my lord. He ave it to me of his own accord.

Judge : When did he give it to you?

Thief : When I showed him the nife!

- Shrenik Sanaki, Std.VI,
Shalom International School,
Panchgani

In the long history of mankind, computers are just a few decades old. Our grandparents and parents have spent the better part of their life without these machines. So why can't we? Well, the answer to this lies in their super efficient performance. Computers are much, much faster and can easily perform the allotted tasks with precision. Work involving hundreds of manhours can be easily completed within a matter of minutes. On the other hand, can hugely populated countries like India afford to have a redundant workforce? The economic repurcussions of machines replacing men needs to be considered too!

The primary means of communication in today's world, the 'e-mail' would not be possible without computers. Life would not be the same without this ultra fast means of communication. From luxury the computer has become a necessity!

Nanditha Ravindar, Std.XII, Leo MHSS, Chennai; T.N.Gayathri, Std.VIII, Mount Carmel, Bengalooru; Swapnil, Std.X, Army School -2, Jabalpur

This wonderful gadget plays its role everywhere – from businesses to space programs, media to research work. Life without computer is unreal; impossible too!

J.Vishnu, Std.XI, Sunbeam

For a

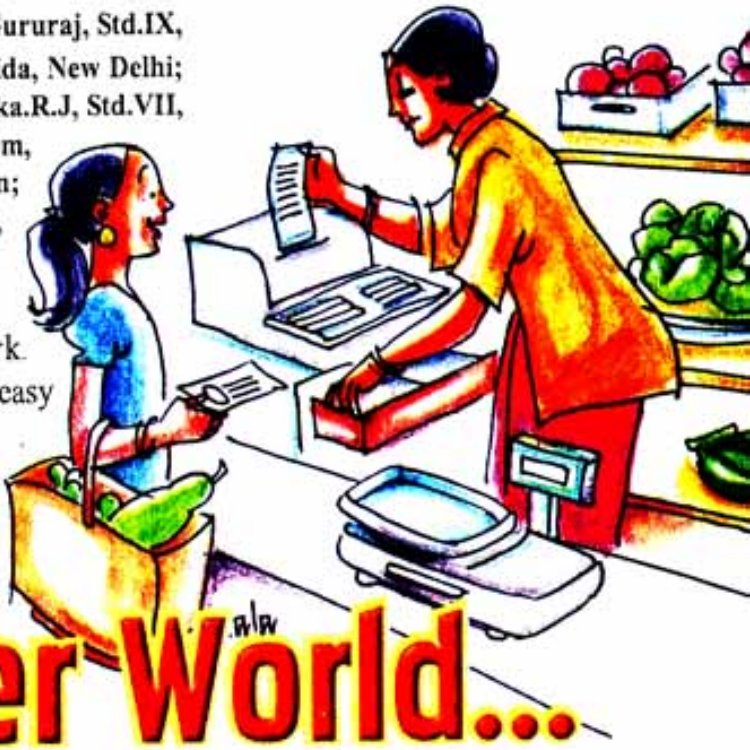
MHSS, Vellore; D.Balaselvakumar, Std.VIII, Veveaham HSS, Dharapuram; Vishishtha Upul, Std.VII, DAV, Ranchi; S.Raveena, Std.IX, St.Ann's High School, Secunderabad; Varun.M, Std.VIII, Capital Public School, Bengalooru; Nidhi Rai, Std.VII, Ladyhill English School, Mangalore; Krishnaprabha Kannan, Std.VIII, KV, Chennai

Viewpoint

We don't need to stand in queues to book tickets or pay bills, we can connect with our friends on various social networking sites, we can watch our loved ones through the webcam though they may be far away. All these and much more is possible with the help of our dear friend, the computer!

Tejasri Gururaj, Std.IX, DPS-Noida, New Delhi; Malavika.R.J, Std.VII, KV-Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram; Ajay Ashok, Std.XI, St.Michaels, Chennai

Computers are among the greatest inventions of mankind. They can perform innumerable tasks in most areas of our life, be it schools, homes, hospitals or offices. They are indispensable. They offer a virtual world with unlimited possibilities.

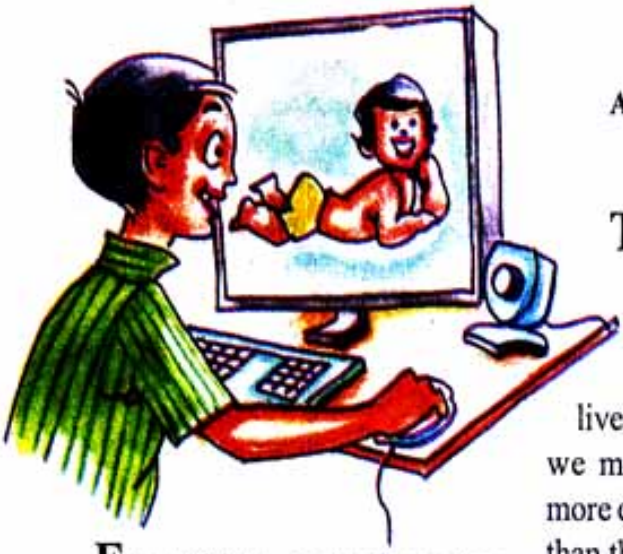


Routine work becomes much more easy and efficient with the help of computers. A world without computers is only theoretically possible!

Better World...

Aamir Sohail, Std.VII, J.H.Tarapore School, Jamshedpur; G.Nandhan, Std.X, Adarsh Vidya Kendra, Nagercoil; Ankita Chaterjee, Std.XI, BSRKV, Secunderabad

Akila Ramani, Std.VIII, Sree Vaijayanthee Vidhyalaya MHSS, Trichy; Sneha Antony, Std.XI, KV-Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram; Krutarth Vinod Dixit, Std.VIII, R.H.Kapadia New High School; C.Athira, Std.VI, Atomic Energy Central School, Tirunelveli



Everything around us has become computerized – right from registering our births to getting a death certificate! Computers also control our satellites and nuclear weapons. Not even a single organization can operate without a computer.

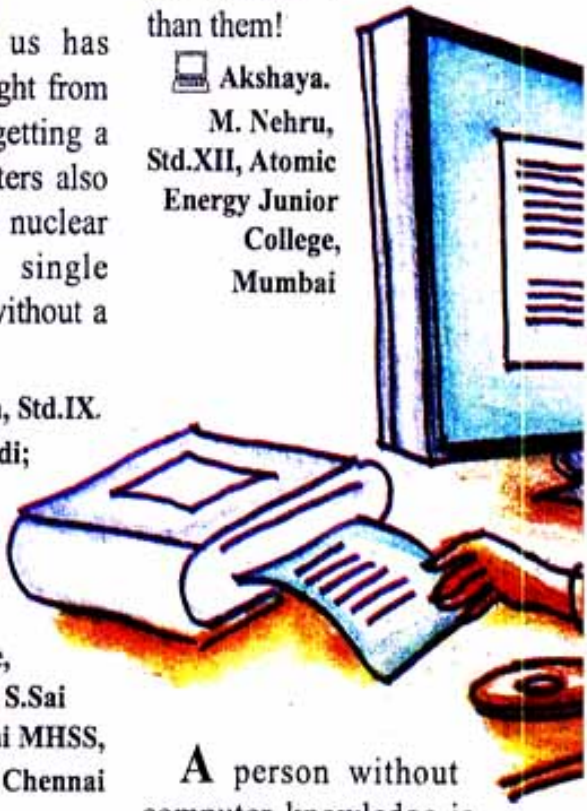
K.Kavi Priya, Std.IX. Shrishti MHSS, Katpadi; Mukul Chakrabarty, Std.VII, DAV, Bhubaneshwar; Astra Chowdary, Std.XII, Chaitanya Junior College, Visakhapatnam; S.Sai Bavadharini, Std.VIII, Sai MHSS, Chennai

Computer plays a key role in life sciences, space technology and structural and design engineering. It is a wonderful tool helping in the progress of mankind.

Kajal.D.Agarwal, Std.IX, Raghunath High Schoo Ahmedabad; R.Pradeep, Std.X Sunbeam MHSS, Vello

The whole world woul become topsy-turvy if all th computers were to cras suddenly. Of course, we ca live without computers – provide we manage to invent somethin more effective than them!

Akshaya. M. Nehru, Std.XII, Atomic Energy Junior College, Mumbai



A person without computer knowledge is considered an illiterate today!

B.Gayathri, Std.X Dayanand Public School, Shimla Srikant Tripathy, Std.XII, Balangir S.Andal Subbulaxmi, Std.IX Mahatma (BABA) Madura

What would the millions of computer engineers do in a computerless world?

Saurav Panda, Std.VIII, St.Joseph's Convent, Sambalpur; S.Sree Deekshana, Std.VIII, Bell MHSS, Tirunelveli

At the click of the mouse we get a treasure trove of information. Computers are undoubtedly a boon to mankind.

K.Karen, Std.XI, Nirmala MHSS, Chidambaram

There are many children in this world whose families cannot afford computers. They manage to study, play and also stay connected to the world. Computers were invented by us and not vice versa! These crazy machines makes us artificially busy.

Mona Lisa, Std.VIII, Mount Assisi School, Bhagalpur; C.Kavya, Std.IX, Jnanodaya School, Bengalooru; Meenakshi Gopalakrishnan, Std.XI, SIES College, Panvel

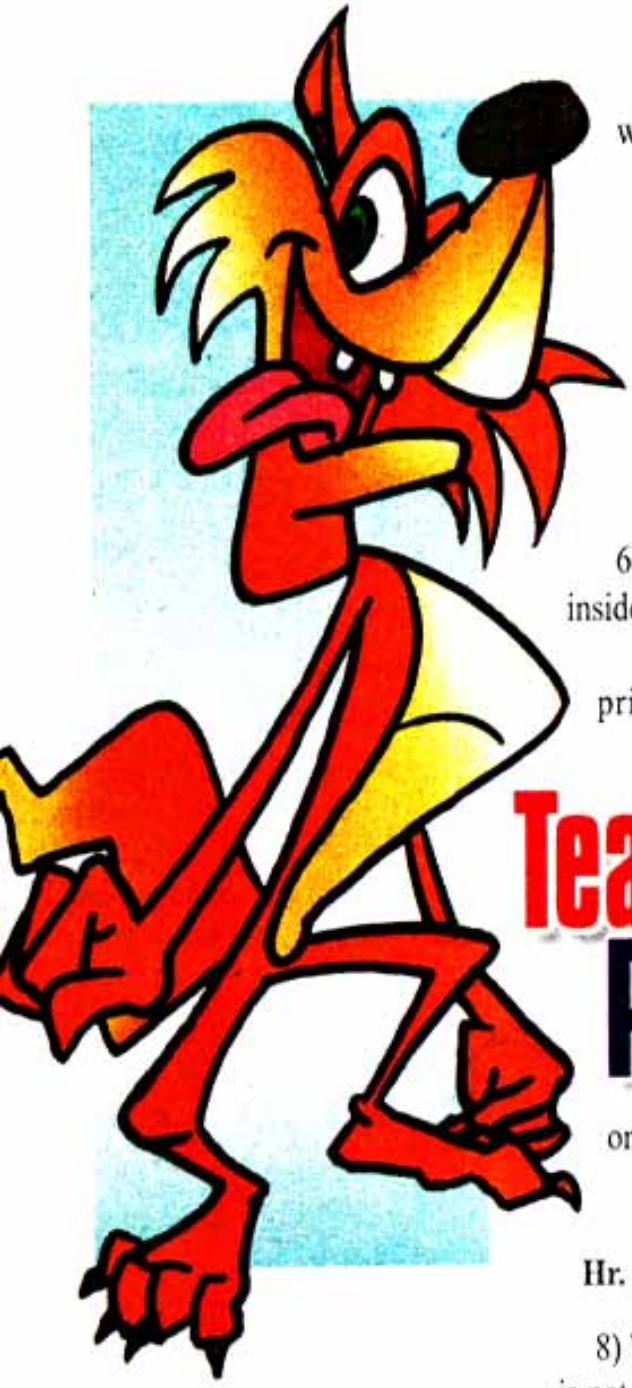
Life without computer is not impossible but incomplete. Things may seem unimaginable without computers but they are not unachievable.

Utpanna Hota, Std.VIII, DAV, Chandrasekharpur

QUESTION FOR THE MONTH:

Is it right to hold IPL cricket matches during annual exam time?

Send us your views by 25.05.2010. Each published entry will receive a prize of Rs. 25/-. Remember to include details of your age, class, school and residential address. Those of you who are non- residents of India should send us a local (Indian) address too. You can send entries by post or by e.mail (gokulam@kalkiweekly.com)



Teasers & Posers!

1) What is Bruce Lee's favourite breakfast?

2) What is Bruce Lee's favourite festival?

3) Where does Bruce Lee go during the summer?

- Kruthika Iyer, Std.XI, Saraswati Vidyalaya, Navi Mumbai

4) How can you tell a trair went by?

- T.M.Shilpa, Std.IX H.C.C.V, Chenna

5) Something that can b made but not seen.

- Miranda, Std.VI, KV New Delh

6) Why are clocks not allowe inside a library?

7) Why did the bald ma print the pictures of rabbit on his head?

- Gowreesh Prabhu, Std.VII, Sri Ramakrishna Hr. Primary School, Mangalore

8) What has wheels and flies but is not an aircraft?

9) How does a fireplace feel?

- Yogendra Varma, Std.V, DPS, Durg, Chhattisgarh

10) Which letter tastes good both hot and cold?

- G.Sahiti, Std.X, KV-Picket, Secunderabad

Pick your Brains

11) What did the mother bee say to her mischievous little one?

12) Why do judges and lawyers love tennis?

13) Why is the maths book always unhappy?

- Rakshana.S, Std.VII, St.Francis School, Coimbatore

14) What is the difference between a musician and a cricketer?

15) What food do pickpockets like?

- C.Visalakshi, Std.IX, Avila Convent, Coimbatore

16) What did the ocean say to the beach?

17) In what way can the letter "A" help a deaf lady?

18) Which is the loudest vowel?

19) Why are the letter "A" and "noon" alike?

20) These relatives are dependent on you?

21) What is the end of everything?

22) What is orange and sounds like parrot?

23) What do you call a boomerang that won't come back?

24) What do you call a pig with three eyes?

25) What has many keys but can't open any door?

26) Who earns money by driving customers away?

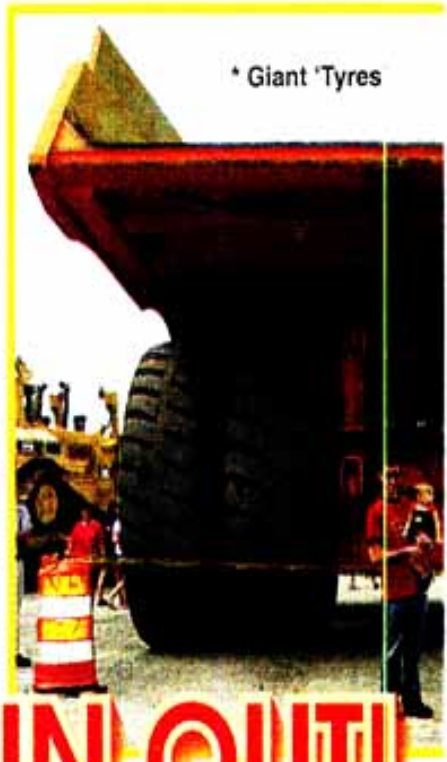
- S.Thulasi, Std.VII, Holy Angels Hr. Sec. School, Chennai

ANSWERS: 1) Idlee 2) Diwalee 3) Kulu Manalee 4) It left its tracks behind! 5) Noise 6) They talk (tock) continuously 7) They looked like hares (hairs)! 8) A garbage truck 9) Grate 10) 'T' (Tea) 11)Bee-hive yourself! 12) Because it is played in a court! 13) It is full of problems! 14) One scores a hit, the other hits a score 15) Takeaway! 16) Nothing, it just waved! 17) It can make her 'hear'! 18) The letter 'I'- it is always in the midst of noise 19) Both of them are in the middle of the 'day' 20) Aunt, uncle, cousin - they all need 'u' 21)The letter 'g' 22) A carrot 23) A stick 24) Pilig 25) A piano 26) A taxi driver

The Queen is the only person in Britain who does not have a number plate on her car.

- S.Manikandan, Std.XII, St.John's MHSS, Chennai

The statue of Gomateshwara at Sravanbelagola in Karnataka is the tallest statue in India. It is 55 ft high and is visible from a distance of about 30km. The gigantic monolithic statue is carved out of a single block of granite and was built around 983 AD.



* Giant Tyres

FIRST RUN OUT!

Copernicus was the first scientist to declare that the earth revolves around the sun.

- Devika.D.Nair, Std.VIII, St.Therese Convent, Mumbai

The largest road vehicle tyres are made by Bridgestone Corporation, Tokyo, Japan. They measure a whopping 3.82 m in diameter and are used in giant dumper trucks.

- Siddharth Pradeepkumar, Std.VIII, Model English School, Mumbai

The word 'Checkmate' in chess comes from the Persian phrase "*Shah Mat*", meaning 'the king is ambushed'.

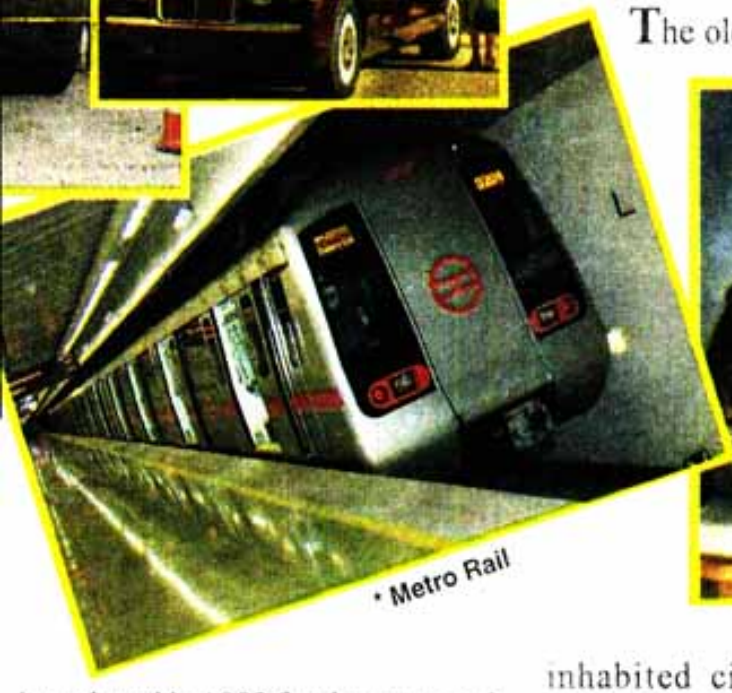
- C.S.M.Vevetha, Std:XI Sunbeam MHSS, Katpadi Vellore

The first ODI was played on 5th January 1971 between Australia and England at Melbourne. When the first three days of the third Test between these two countries was washed out, the officials decided to abandon the match and, instead, play a one-off one day game. Australia won the game by 5 wickets.

The third umpire was conceptualized by former Sri Lankan Test cricketer Mahinda Wijesinghe. It was introduced in 1992 for the test match betweem South Africa and India. Sachin Tendulkar became the first batsman to be dismissed (run out) by using television replays.

- B.Pragadeesh, Std.VIII,
Sri Sankara Vidyashramam
MHSS, Chennai

• Queen's Car



• Metro Rail

The weighing scale was invented in Mesopotamia in 4000 BC.

- Adinarayana, Std.IX,
Sri Vidya Mandir, Bengalooru

The full form of common cold is 'Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease'.

- N.S.Jayanthi Priya, Std.XII,
St.Ignatius Convent,
Palayamkottai, Tamil Nadu

The oldest and continuously inhabited city in the world is Varanasi. It is also known as Benares and is supposed to be more than 3000 years old.

One of the largest employers in the world is the Indian Railways which employs over 15 lakh people.

- Preeti Priyadarsini, Std.VII,
DAV Public School, Orissa

• Copernicus

M.Gayathri celebrates her 10th birthday on the 21st of May. We wish her all success in life.

Best Wishes from
Shrilekha, Srinath, Aparna, uncle and aunty

My dear sister **Deeksha** celebrates her 11th birthday on the 26th of May. May god fulfil all her wishes. Many happy returns of the day!

Best Wishes from your loving brother
Aditya Sarangi

Summer Celebration!

* Anupriya

* Shravan Kuma

K.Adhirai celebrates her 15th birthday on the 20th of May. May god bless her with happiness throughout her life. A very happy birthday to you!

Best Wishes from
Parents, relatives and best friend Dimple

* Ajay Ashok

* Pon Aishwarya

My brother **Mohit.D.Agarwal** celebrates his 13th birthday on the 14th of May. May god bless him with happiness. We wish him all success in life.

Best Wishes from
parents, Kajal, Khushbu and relatives

H.R.Aprameya celebrates his 2nd birthday on the 31st of May. We wish you a very, very happy birthday and lots more to come!

Best Wishes from
parents, Ananya akka and family

Anupriya.V celebrates her 8th birthday on the 1st of May. May god bless her with good health, luck and happiness throughout her life. Happy birthday Molu!

Best Wishes from
parents and grandparents

Ajay Ashok celebrates his 17th birthday on the 24th of May. As you

It's Your Day

turn seventeen, may you have god's blessings umpteen. Have a sunny and smiling year ahead!

Best Wishes from
parents, grandparents, Geetha aunty, Prakash uncle, cousins Rhythwyn and Rishabh, friends Prashanth, Nafeesh, Pradeep and Dasarath

Akash Chanakya

• Adhirai

• Elanchik Kumaran

• Aprameya

Our cute little son **R.Akash Chanakya** celebrates his 6th birthday on the 16th of May. We wish him a world of health, happiness and prosperity.

Best Wishes from
parents, sister, Elanchi and grandma

Our dear son **N.Elanchik Kumaran** celebrates his 6th birthday on the 13th of May. We wish him good health and the very best in life.

Best Wishes from
parents, Balu and Akash

My dear friend **R.Pon Aishwarya** celebrates her 12th birthday on the 8th of May. We wish her great success and happiness all through the year.

Best Wishes from
R.Hari Shanjana and family

Shravan Kumar. S celebrates his 10th birthday on the 15th of May. We wish him all success in life. Many more returns of the day.

Best Wishes from
brother Harish Kumaar and parents

Our dear friend **K.Nagalakshmi** celebrates her birthday on the 6th of May. We wish her all the best.

Best wishes from
Adhirai, Manju, Nandhini and Lavanya

Teacher: 'I have went out', is this sentence right?

Pupil: Definitely not. You are still here!

- Verina Berryl Rasquinha, Std.X, St.Agnes Girls' High School, Mangalore

Master : Why didn't you water the plants yesterday?

Servant : It was raining heavily, sir.

Master : You could have taken an umbrella!

- J.Vishnu, Std.XII, Sunbeam MHSS, Vellore

Raju: Did you tell your parents that you want to see the world?

Shyam: Yes, I did.

Raju: And what did they do?

Shyam: They gifted me an atlas!!

- S.Vismitha Katyayani, Std.VIII, Stella Mary's High School, Bengalooru

Teacher: How much time did it take to build the Red Fort?

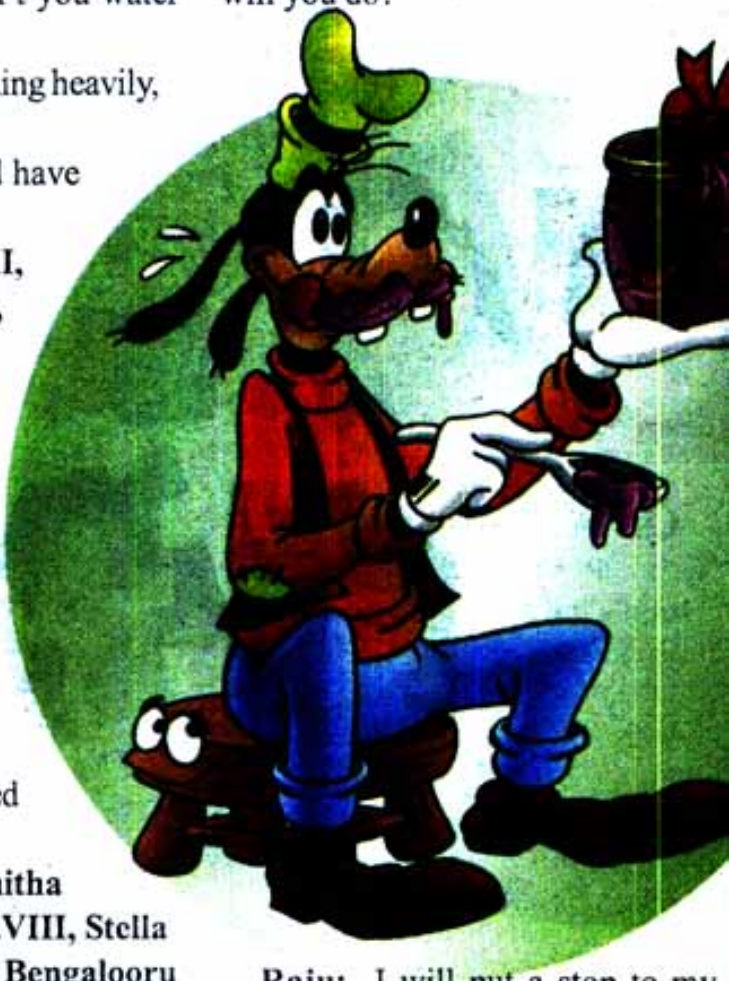
Student: It was built in a night.

Teacher: What do you mean?

Student: It was you who taught us that it was not built in a day.

- Sowmya, Madurai

Interviewer: Just imagine you are in the thirteenth floor and the building is on fire. All the escape routes are engulfed in flames, what will you do?



Raju: I will put a stop to my imagination!

***

Ram: Why didn't you submit the examination form last week?

Shyam: I had to travel all the way

o Delhi to fill the orm.

Ram: Delhi...why?

Shyam: It was mentioned in the orm that my name had to be filled n capital!

- V.Abinesh, Std.VIII, Himayam MHSS, Chennai

Father (worried): Anil, your ame and exam number have not een published in the newspaper.

Anil: Dad, don't you know that I lon't like publicity?

- S.Oviya, Std.VIII, Jawahar Hr. Sec. School, Neyveli

Capital Fun!

Teacher: How do you spell wrong?

Student: 'R-O-N-G'

Teacher: That's wrong.

Student: That's what you asked for!

- S.Sai Priya, Std.IX, Mahatma Gandhi Centenary Vidyalaya

Boy: Doctor, will I be able to play the piano after the operation?

Doctor: Yes, of course.

Boy: Great! I never could before!

***

Anish: Why couldn't Cinderella be a good soccer player?

Monish: She lost her shoe, ran away from the ball and her coach was a pumpkin!

***

Antony: Meet my new baby brother.

Teacher: What's his name?

Antony: I don't know. Can't understand a word he says!

- Antony Agnel, Std.IX, DAV, Chennai

Mother: How was your English grammar test today?

Ramya: It was quite easy except for one question.

Mother: What was it?

Ramya: They had asked the past tense of 'think'. I thought and thought but coudn't get the answer.

- Shreya Unnikrishnan, Std.VII, National Hr. Sec. School, Thrissur

COLOUR UP

Attention!

Make Sure and Take Care

Dear children,

A young reader sent us a lovely poem. We chanced to find out that it had been copied out of his text book! Please don't copy out of books and send them as your contributions. If your writing is to be published, it should be interesting, well-written and original. We also need you to follow some simple rules:

1. **Write down your name, class, name of your school and complete residential address** at the beginning of each contribution. Henceforth, we will not accept any contribution with incomplete details.

2. **Make use of A4 sheets and write on one side of the paper**, leaving the other side blank. And do write legibly.

3. **Number your pages** and if your contribution runs to more than two pages, then write your complete personal details at the back of every page.

4. **Contributions by e-mail are welcome**... do give complete details including your e-mail id at the beginning of each mail.

5. **The best contributions will be published** and a certificate of appreciation will be sent to the contributor. Do preserve your certificates, for the child with the maximum number of certificates will get a bumper prize at the end of 12 months (ending each June).

6. **All competition entries** must reach us before the last date mentioned.

7. Coupons provided in Gokulam for competition entries **should not be xeroxed**.

8. Entries to It's Your Day (Birthday Bash) and theme based contributions (eg., Diwali, New year, Republic Day, Environment Day, Teacher's Day, etc) **should reach us two months prior to the respective events.**

9. **We are looking for original stories, experiences, amusing anecdotes and articles**, but if you have based your writing on any source, then do acknowledge it.

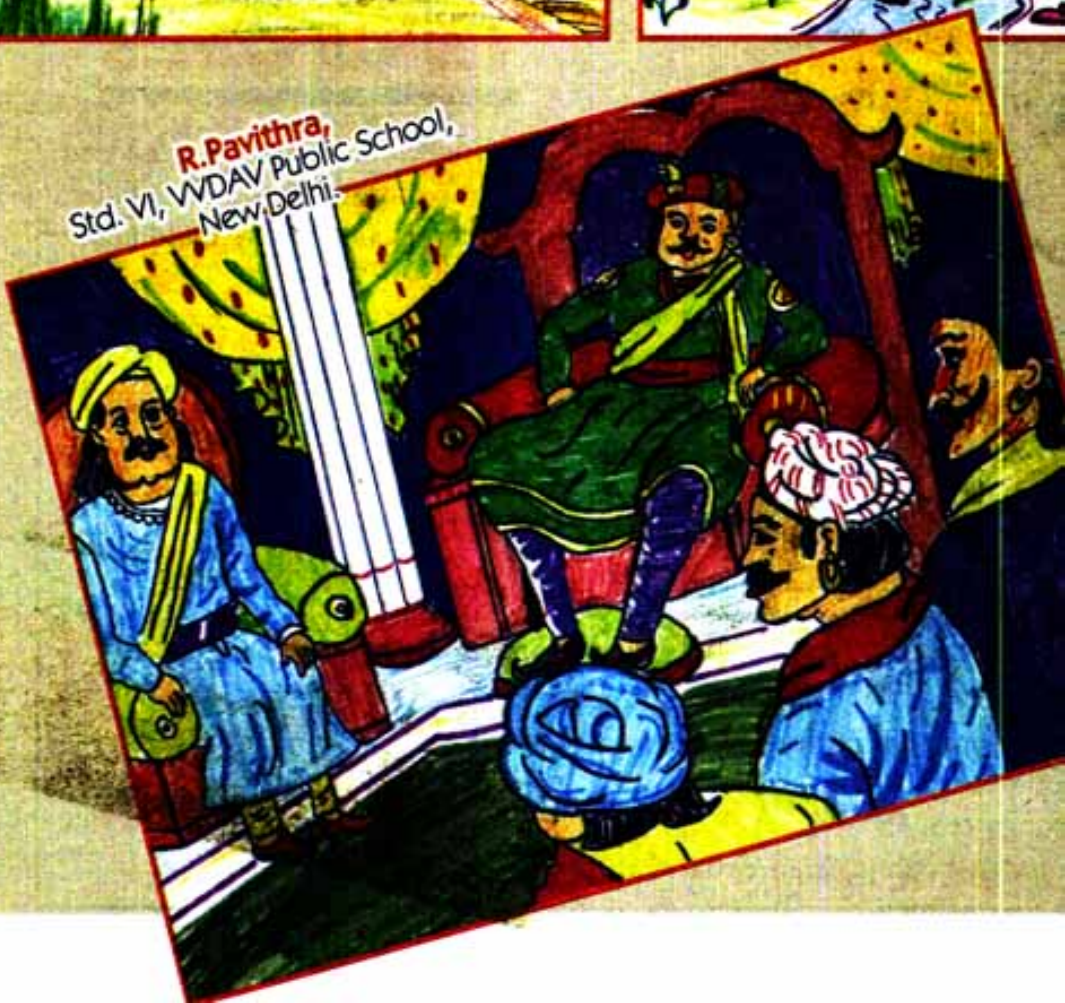
10. **No copying, please !**

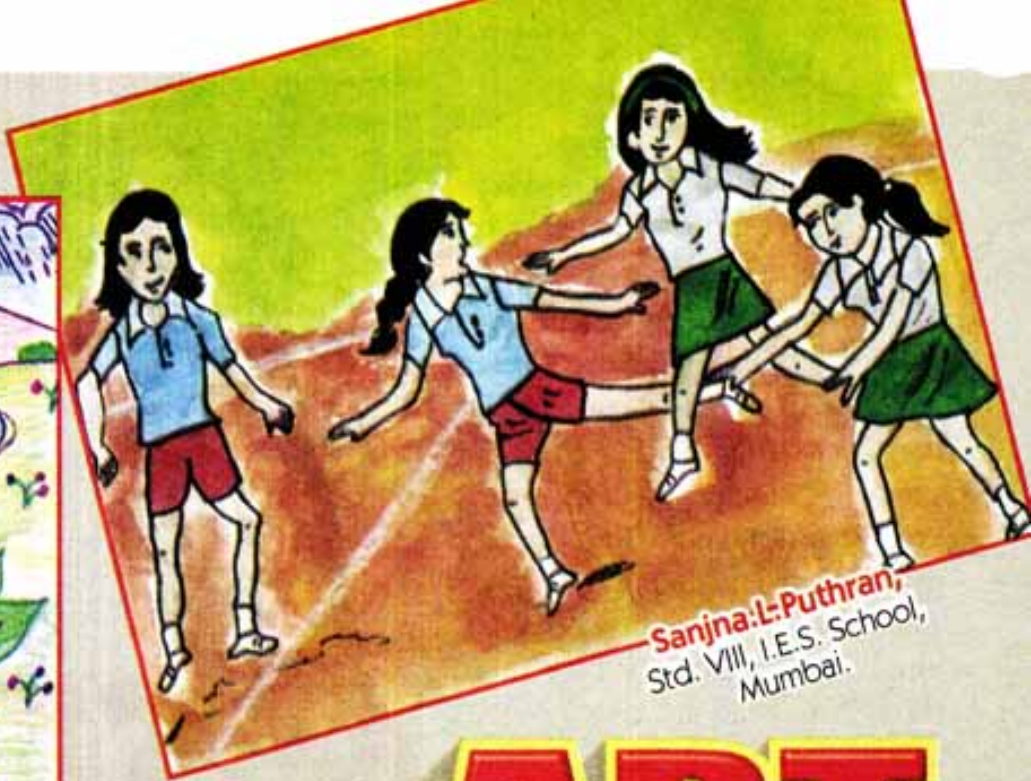
Please make sure that you take care of the ten commandments!

Trisha Roy,
Std. VII, IAF, Bengalooru.

Shyam Sunder Panigrahi,
Std. VI, St.Xavier's High School
Orissa.

R.Pavithra,
Std. VI, VVDAV Public School,
New Delhi.



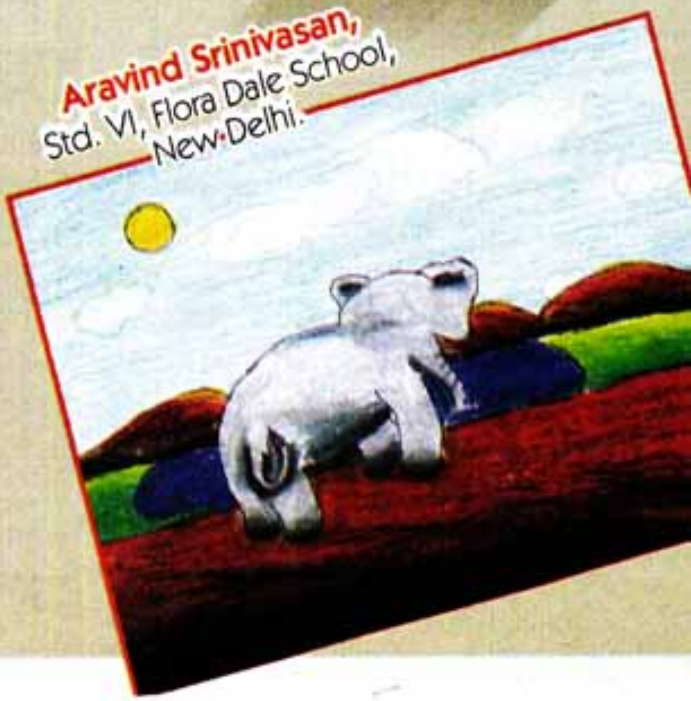


Sanjna L. Puthran,
Std. VIII, I.E.S. School,
Mumbai.

ART ZONE

Sarmistha Mishra,
Std. VI, B.J.E.M. School,
Bhubaneswar.

Aravind Srinivasan,
Std. VI, Flora Dale School,
New Delhi.



MISTY

Geeta Canpadee

CHAPTER FOUR

Story so far :

The newcomers at Misty Heights have an informal and fun filled meeting with their seniors. Their prefect, George, warns them about the forest nearby. Padma and Harish have a blazing row at the meet. At midnight the girls spot a light flickering in the forest but find out next day that it was a prank played on them by the boys. The episode ends with a new girl, Sheila, seeking entry into their class. Now read on...

As the stylish Sheila stepped into the class the students couldn't help gaping at her. Sadil instantly stood up to offer the place next to his own. As he stood admiring her grey eyes and gold tinted hair, their Hindi teacher walked in.

Sid quickly grabbed the duster and wiped out the sentences he had scribbled on the blackboard.

"Namaste!" Rubaina Ahmed greeted them and as she turned to the board, she spotted the word ALKALI which was clearly visible.

"What is this ALKALI?" she raised her brows. "It should be ANARKALI instead," and she replaced the 'L' with 'NAR' and started off with the story of Princ Salim and Anarkali and went on an on about the tragic tale.

"Phew, I never thought it woul end!" Sid sighed after she lef "Sheila, did you follow what Rubain ma'm was teaching?" he turned t ask her.

"Just a little bit," the girl replie in a husky voice. "I just know th basics of the language."

This was sufficient for Sad and Badri to leap forward t offer assistance. "Don't worry, w will help you out," they said i unison.

"Which house are you in?" Sa asked curiously.

"Sapphire," the girl replied.

"Good, atlast I have som company," he said happily.

"I am great at dancing an acting," said Sheila and starte describing the *n* number of contest she had won back home in Singapore

That evening when the junior returned to their respective hoste wings, Sheila tagged along with Ma and Padma, tiring them with her tale

of Singapore.

"Well, you could have stayed back in Singapore itself," Mau cut her short.

The girl seemed to take the comment seriously. "You see, I'm here to imbibe the ethnicity of this country," she replied. "I want to become a global cultural ambassador."

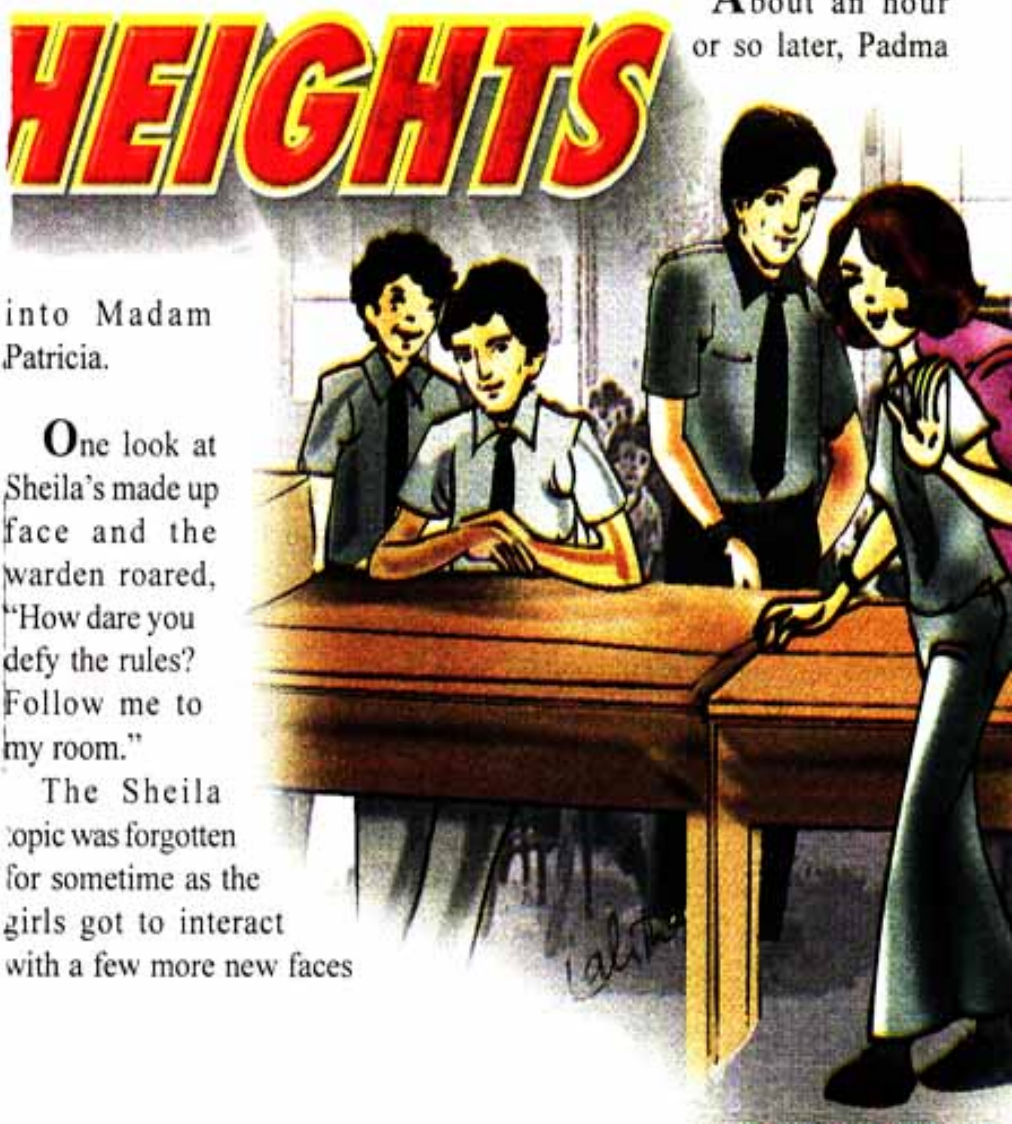
"Oh," Padma gasped aloud, and before Sheila could start explaining her huge ambition the girls bumped into Madam Patricia.

One look at Sheila's made up face and the warden roared, "How dare you defy the rules? Follow me to my room."

The Sheila topic was forgotten for sometime as the girls got to interact with a few more new faces during afternoon tea and dinner. That night they again spotted the lights coming from the same place out in the forest. This time Mau took out her torch and flashed in reciprocation.

"Let the boys know we are no less," she said mischievously. Suddenly the light from the distance vanished. "Ah, you see, they were taken aback by our brilliance," she chuckled.

About an hour or so later, Padma



woke up on hearing somebody sobbing. It seemed to be coming from somewhere nearby. "Maybe someone is feeling homesick," she thought. It made her remember her home and her parents, and she felt a little low. She quietly headed for the wooden cupboard and pulled out the box of *murukkus* her mother had given her. And as she crunched into them one by one, a tiny tear trickled down her cheek. After finishing a couple she walked upto the window and threw open the shutters to let in some fresh air. The sobbing could be heard more clearl now.

"Must check ou who stays in th adjacent blocks.." sh told herself gazin into the distant forest "..and see if I can offe any help." Suddenl she spotted th flickering lights onc again. The light kept o glinting for some mor time and soon sh became rather nervou and shut the windows Quietly she slippe back into her bed.

"It was definitel not us this time," th boys vouched. "But what were yo doing at midnight?" they asked, nex morning. And when they heard abou Padma's mid-night snack they sper the next couple of minutes pullin her leg until the dazzling Sheil sashayed into the classroom, sportin a stunning hair do.

All conversation stopped wit Madam Totou's entry. She beame a hearty "*Bonjour* (Good afternoon) before moving on to a string o French words and their translation in English. She was tall and lean wit typical French features that set he

ıpart from the rest of the faculty.

The only problem with Totou was ıer accent. She spoke English with ı French drawl and it became a :hallenge for the first time listeners o differentiate between the two anguages.

Sheila was an instant hit with Totou, as she seemed to know more French than anybody else in the class, and the twosome dabbled in some *quoi* (what) and *quand* (when) and *qui* (who) and *quell* (which). Nevertheless, by the time their Mademoiselle left the class, the students managed to roll their tongues and say *oui* (yes) and *merci* (thank you).

Sheila now turned to display more of her linguistic skills as the boys flocked around her to clarify their doubts. The girl also managed to charm Miss Piklington who entered the class next. She was at once bowled over by Sheila's looks.

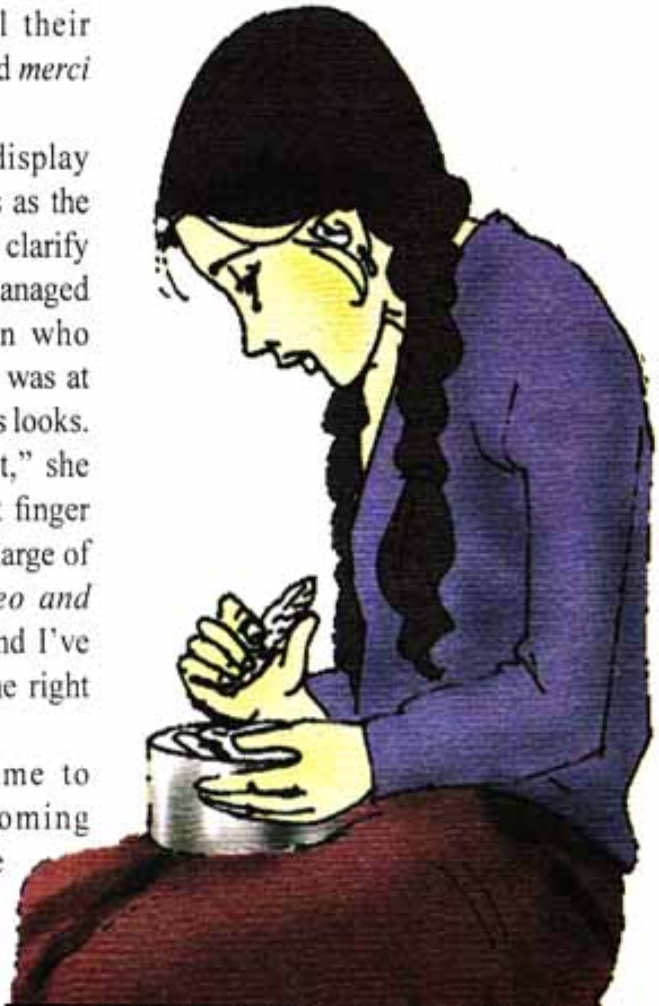
"I have found my Juliet," she declared, pointing her stout finger straight at Sheila. "I'm in-charge of organizing the play *Romeo and Juliet* for the annual day and I've been on the look out for the right cast."

However, when it came to qualifying for the upcoming interhouse sports event, the beauty refused to participate in most events for the fear of bruising her lovely ankles and knees.

"Ah, the delicate darling!" Mau commented. "Paddy, what are you participating in?" she turned to ask her friend.

"Well, the only thing I can do is run," Padma said in an unsure voice. "I'm not sure if I'll fit into any of the teams."

"Of course, you will!" It was Rodrigues, their sports master. "I shall be taking you in the hockey team," he explained. "I've watched



you run swiftly, and I'm sure you will master the game soon."

"Oh!" Padma couldn't contain her excitement. She was about to inquire more about the sport when the coach turned to Maumita and asked,

"So, Miss Banerjee, what are you interested in?"

"Football!" came the ready reply.

"Hmm... you can come over for the practice match tomorrow morning. It's going to be a mixed team and I will surely select you if you perform well," he informed, checking out the list in his hand. "Be seeing you girls tomorrow at 5:30 am sharp," he warned.

"I never knew you could play football," Padma turned in admiration to her friend.

"Just watch me in action," gloated Mau good naturedly. "But our dear Singapore Sheila seems to be a good for nothing in sports, isn't it?"

"Maybe we could ask her to try her hand at wrestling," Padma chipped in laughingly. Mau was about to give a suitable rejoinder when they spotted Sheila glaring at them from behind. She had overheard the conversation. Padma at once felt very bad and before she could open her mouth to apologize, the offended girl had left the scene.

"How could we be so mean?" Padma murmured unhappily.

"Oh... she will now realize she is not as popular as she thinks she is," Mau tossed carelessly. "Come on Paddy, we need to go to bed early if we have to wake up at 5:30 tomorrow morning."

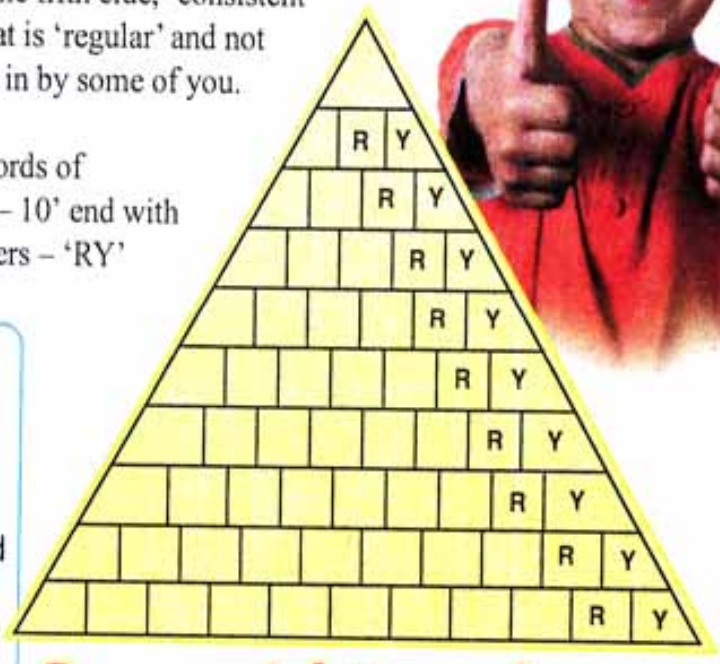
"Well, I'm looking forward to it," Padma said, the excitement soaring in her voice. "All my dreams are coming true." And both the girls walked back happily to their room.

(To be continued)

Dear Children,

ɨeemed like 'Pyramid Puzzle – 8' was quite ısy as the number of all correct entries was at ı all time high. Of course, a few children did ɛt confused by the fifth clue, 'consistent' he answer to that is 'regular' and not imilar' as filled in by some of you.

ote : All the words of 'yramid Puzzle – 10' end with ıe same two letters – 'RY'



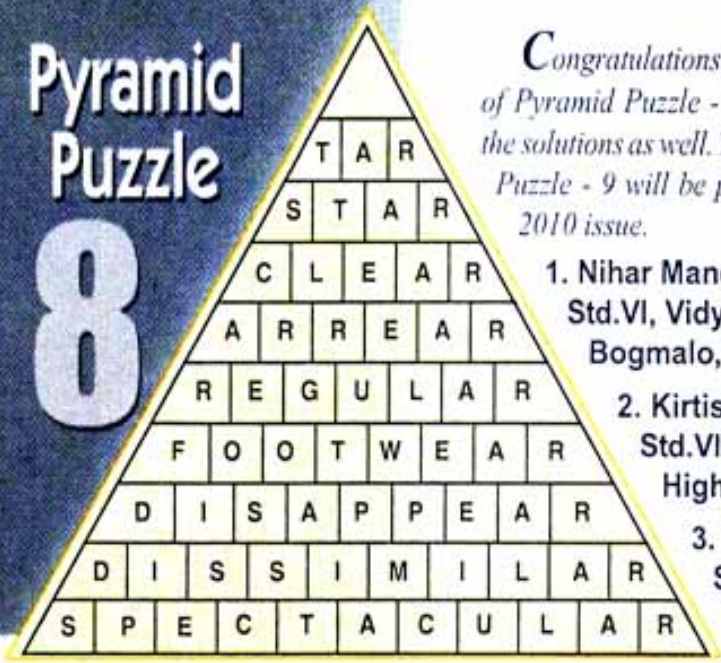
Fill in the form on the reverse of this page and send your entries to Gokulam before **25.5.10**

Pyramid Puzzle - 10

1. Opposite of laugh
2. She had a pet lamb
3. Elephant tusk
4. Blood vessel
5. Every batsman's dream
6. Of lines and angles
7. Accompanying item
8. A tasty fruit
9. Done or occurring without choice

- G.S.S

Pyramid Puzzle 8



Congratulations! Here are the winners of Pyramid Puzzle - 8 (March 2010) and the solutions as well. The results of Pyramid Puzzle - 9 will be published in the June 2010 issue.

1. Nihar Manoj Pednecar, Std.VI, Vidya Mandir, Bogmalo, Goa
2. Kirtisagar.K.Sharma, Std.VIII, St.Vincent's High School, Pune
3. S.Deekshitha, Std.VI, ITI Central School, Bengalooru
4. S.K.Vyshnavi, Std.IV, BSP EMMS – V, Chhattisgarh
5. Sreekara Sabarish.K.S, Std.VI, The Hindu Sr. Sec. School Chennai

Pyramid Puzzle - 10 Entry Form

Name : (Mr/Ms) .....

Age : ..... Class : .....

School : .....

*Residential Address : .....

.....Pin .....

Signature : .....

* Local address is a must for overseas entries.

The Editor, Gokulam, Kalki Buildings,

47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032.

● Strictly for school going children ● Five lucky winners will get a cash award of Rs.50/- each. They will be decided by a draw of lots from out of the all correct entries. ● Entries with completed grid on the reverse accepted on this form only ● No xerox copies. ● Editor's decision is final and binding.

Just imagine
king up early in the
rning and walking
o your kitchen to
d a large cobra
hering on the floor!
is is what happened
Chumg Kham
mcha, living in
phal East district.
llagers wanted to
l the snake. Fortunately news
ched wild life supporters and the
bra was caught and sent to
nipur Zoo. It was the biggest
cobra caught in that
area 9 ft. and 4
inches long and 8
inches in diameter!
It also happened to
be a very rare
species of King
Cobra!

itin Gadkari

★★★

A Swiss dream to fly around the
rld in an air craft powered by solar
ergy was realised at least partially.
e solar impulse aircraft took off
its first flight from
air base in Western
itzerland, slowly
ned altitude and
scheduled two
ur flight was
ccessful. The
neering effort was
undertaken by test pilot Markus
Scherdel in the single seater aircraft,
propelled by four 10 H.P. electric
mote

Robot Teachers!

★★★

The women's bill which reserves
33% of seats in the Lok Sabha and
state assemblies for women, was

* Missile BrahMos

passed in the Rajya Sabha amidst uprorious scenes, but it looks like it is going to have a tough time becoming law. Not only the opposition but also some of the alliance parties in the ruling UPA are not for approving the bill in its present form. The central government not being sure of getting the bill passed in the Lok Sabha, is delaying its introduction.

★★★

The B.J.P., under its new leader Nitin Gadkari selected its new team of office bearers of whom 33% are women!

★★★

Tom and Jer the most loved c and mouse duo in the world, turn 70, on the eve of April Fools' da Well, Jerry and Tuffy have be making a fool of Tom for seven years! They have given millions laughs to global audience - fro infants to adults. We wish them a ourselves manymore years of fun.

★★★

A BrahMos missile took c vertically from our naval destroy ship Ranvir. It climbed 200 mete before moving horizontal at supersonic speed over B of Bengal. It smash right on target into an o decommission vessel I.N.S. Mee and punched a big h

it, causing it to sink. BrahMos is ıother feather in the cap of our ·cket scientists and a valuable ldition to our defence capabilities.

***

A robot teacher who never makes rcastic remarks or gets angry has :en successfully tested in some ›uth Korean schools! In the pilot ;oject, elementary school children ere happy and responded

vourably. Scientists are working to ıprove the quality of robot teachers help the government extend their ;e!

***

A huge fire swept through a 150 :ar old multi-storied building in ark Street, Kolkata. 300 firemen ıd to struggle for ght hours to put ıt the flames hich claimed six ves and injured /enty. A grim reminder of lack of fire safety standards in several of our buildings.

***

A Texas man crashed his plane into a tax office building setting it on fire! He had left behind a note accusing tax authorities of oppressive taxations!

***

The first comic book featuring Superman has sold for $ one million! It is a 1938 edition of 'Action Comics' featuring Superman on its cover page. The original cost of the magazine was ten cents!

***

Maoists massacred 75 Central Reserve Police Men (C.R.P.F.) in the forets of Chhattisgarh. Obviously our intelligence network is inadequate and our forces are not properly trained in guerrilla warfare.

While Indian hockey is desperately trying to win a few big games today, one man still remains the '*guru*' of this game. He is none other than the hockey wizard, Major Dhyan Chand Singh. He got the title *Chand* (moon) from his first coach, Pankaj Gupta, who had predicted that he would shine like one. Dhyan Chand has proved his coach right and even today remains a figure of veneration to hockey players through out the world.

Major Dhyan Chand, a *sepoy* in the British Indian Army, was the captain of the gold winning Indian team in three Olympic Games (1928 Amsterdam, 1932 Los Angeles, 1936 Berlin). The National Sports Day in India is observed on his birthday, the 29th of August. He was awarded the *Padma Bhushan*, India's third highest civilian honour, in 1956.

On the field he was named the 'Wizard of Hockey' and was admired and feared by his opponents and fellow players alike. They all felt that the ball stuck to his hockey stick, for so well did he dribble the ball. He attracted much attraction for his clever stick work. Such was Dhyan Chand's skill that spectators refused to believe when he scored goal upon goal. Infact, his hockey stick was prised open to check for hidden magnets. His deft stick wo and amazing ball control left fell players and spectators awestru On one occasion, a lady from t

Dhyan Chand - Eternal Champ

audience challenged Dhyar Cha to play with her walking stick. took up the challenge a successfully scored goals with it!

Dhyan Chand - The Wizard of Hockey

In the 1928 Amsterdam Summer Olympics finals, the Indian team had to face the home team. Three key players of the Indian team were sick and off the field. However, even with a skeletal side, India managed to defeat the hosts 3-0, with Dhyan scoring 2 crucial goals. And a newspaper aptly published in its front pages – 'This is not a game of hockey, but magic. Dhyan Chand is in fact the magician of hockey'. The victorious team was received by thousands of people at the Bombay harbour, when it returned; whereas only three people had turned up to see it off earlier!

Legend has it that after watching him play at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, Hitler offered Dhyan Chand, Geman citizenship coupled with a senior post in the German army. The prolific striker politely turned it down; such was his love for his motherland and the game of hockey. Even after crossing age 42, he continued to score at will. He netted 61 goals to help India win all the 22 matches in East Africa in 1947 – 48.

After his playing days, Dhyan Chand earned a diploma in coaching from National Institute of Sports at Patiala in Punjab. He won a number of awards and accolades during his illustrious and long career. One of the most touching gestures came from the residents of Vienna who erected a statue of the Indian with four hands and four sticks, signifying his unparalleled control over the ball. The government of India released a postage stamp on December 3, 1980, on his first death anniversary, to commemorate him. India's highest award for lifetime achievement in sports is named after him. The Dhyan Chand Award, given annually, was instituted in 2002. A fitting tribute to the master player, whose record of scoring maximum international goals, remains unbeaten till date!!

- Meenakshi.G,
Std.X,
J.B.Khot High School - 2,
Mumbai

Language Corner

Find the names of these famous English poets and authors with the help of the given clues:

Find these Poets...

1) A 'frozen' author
2) A poet from the 'sea'
3) A 'romantic' poet
4) A 'cheerful' author
5) A poet who loved a 'game'
6) A 'colourful' author
7) A 'holy' poet
8) A literary heavy'weight'
9) An author 'rich' in words

- S.Aparna, Std.VII,
DAV Sr. Sec. School, Chennai

Answers : 1) Robert Frost Percy Shelley 3) Richard Lovelace Samuel Smiles 5) Alfred Tennyson Robert Browning 7) Alexander Pope John Milton 9) Oliver Goldsmith

The word 'CHESS' is supposed to have been coined by joining the first letters of the words Chariot, Horse, Elephant and Soldiers.

- R.Prasanna,Std.VI,
Gandhigramam, Karur

When two words are combined to form a single word, the newly formed word is called a 'portmanteau'. Eg: Breakfast + Lunch = Brunch

The English language original had only 23 alphabets. Th letters 'J, U and W' wer added in the sixteen century to bring th count to the present 2

- G.Pranav, Std.II
Villupura

Vote for your Poster-11

Harry Potter, Harry Potter…the HP craze is as strong as ever. itted against this world famous wizard boy, the other nominees ad absolutely no chance of winning. Young Harry, along with his iends Hermione and Ron, encounter various problems and troubles nd fight bravely against the evil Voldemort to emerge victorious the end. The seven part series takes the readers on an exciting nd unforgettable magical journey and each book takes Harry closer his mission. And through his courage and daring, 'the boy who lived' will ways live in our hearts!

The winners are: **1) J.Rampriya, StdVI, KV – Coimbatore 2) Parvathy.P, Std.IV, edavyasa Vidyalayam, Calicut 3) Saurabh Sinha, Std.VI, A.E.C.S – 1, Tirunelveli Saakshi Jain, Std.VI, St.Xavier's High School, Raipur 5) Mona Lisa, Std.VIII, Iount Assisi School, Bhagalpur**

Now vote for your August issue poster!

Five entries that detail the best reasons will get a reward of Rs ***50/-*** *each.*

- *Last date for receipt of entries:* ***25.5.2010.***
- *Editor's decision is final.*

y vote goes to – Mahatma Gandhi ☐ Sania Mirza ☐ Anil Kumble ☐ Scooby Doo ☐

Because.....

.....

Name : .....

Age : ..... Class : .....

School : .....

*Residential Address : .....

.....Pin .....

Signature : .....

Local address is a must for overseas entries.

The Editor, Gokulam, Kalki Buildings,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032.

La Tomatina!

Here are a collection of amusing and interesting facts from around the world :

Denmark: Families in this country fly a flag outside their house or apartment window to indicate that they are celebrating a birthday.

•••

Germany: A cartwheel competition is held and winners are announced based on their speed and ability to turn cartwheels.

•••

Mexico: At birthday parties in Mexico, a fancy paper mache container, usually in the shape of an animal, is filled with lots of small treats and hoisted up. The children are blindfolded and given sticks to break open the treat filler container.

•••

Fiji: Races are held among hermit crabs and th first crab to cross th finishing line declared the winne

•••

USA: Ever fourth of July, c Independence Da a hot dog eatin competition is hel in New York. Th person who is ab to eat the maximu number in twelv minutes wins

rophy as well as $10,000 in prize noney! The event is watched live by 30,000 spectators and attracts over 1.5 million television viewers.

•••

Argentina: The birthday boy/girl is given a tug on the ear lobe by his / her friends, one for each year.

•••

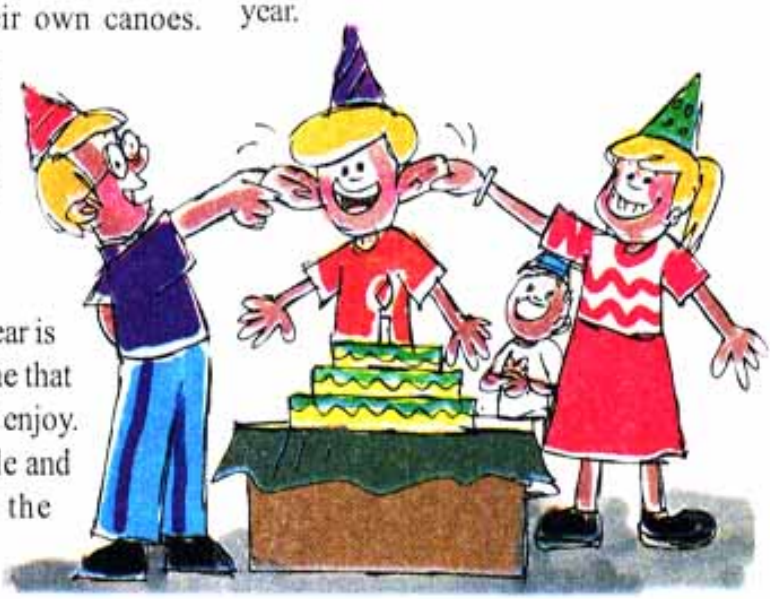
South Africa: A race is held here every year in which contestants must build and race their own canoes. The difference lies in the material of the canoes, they must be made of concrete!

•••

Iran: Nose and ear is a funny Iranian game that most kids play and enjoy. Kids stand in a circle and the leader starts the game by pulling the nose or ear of the player on his right. All the other children repeat the action and anyone who laughs while the play is on, is declared 'out'. Next, the leader makes another funny action and this goes on till all the players are out of the game.

•••

Canada: The birthday boy or girl is smeared with a dab of butter on the nose. This is to help him or her slide past the bad luck in the coming year.



Spain: La Tomatina is a vegetable fight festival held on the last Wednesday of August each year, in the town of Buñol in Spain. About 40,000 people take part in this festival in which thousands of pounds of over - ripe tomatoes are thrown at each other.

- Abha Korde, Std.V, National Public School, Bengalooru

Uncle *(giving a 100 rupee note to his nephew)* : Now be very careful with that money. Remember the saying, 'a fool and his money are soon parted'

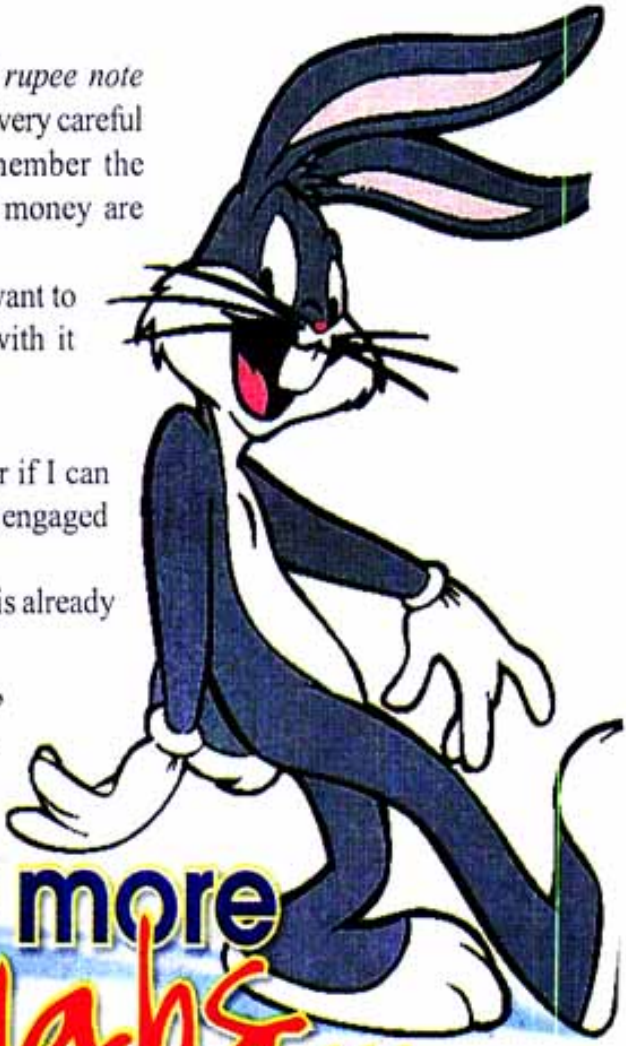
Gokul : Sure, but I want to thank you for parting with it just the same!!

★★★

Salesman : I wonder if I can see your mother. Is she engaged (busy)?

Boy : Engaged! She is already married.

- Abhishek.R,
Std.VIII, KV-1,
Mangalore



A few more Laughs...

Stranger : *Knock, Knock!*

Boy : Who's there?

Stranger : Opportunity.

Boy : Can't be.

Stranger : Why not?

Boy : Because Opportunity knocks at the door only once!!

- Ananya Mishra, Std.VIII,
Ruhileer High School,
Bhubaneshwar

Teacher : What is the atomi symbol of Barium and Sodium?

Student : 'Ba' for barium an 'Na' for sodium.

Teacher : What do you get whe you combine one molecule of bariu and two molecules of sodium?

Student: 'Banana!'

- D.Sandhya, Std.I
C.S.I. MHSS, Chenn

Teacher : Why didn't you com

Jokes

:o school yesterday?

Shanta : I couldn't attend school because I fell.

Teacher : Where did you fall?

Shanta : I fell asleep!

- Ammar Ali Kolkar, Std.VIII, Touheed Eng. School, Udupi

Football coach : You are not playing properly. Keep your eyes fixed on the ball.

Boy : Eecks! No thanks, I would prefer to keep my eyes on my face

nd not on the ball!

- Aishwarya.A, Std.VIII, St.Joseph's Convent, Coonoor

Rahul : How did you spend your month long vacation?

Raja : The first day in learning to ride a horse, and the rest in the hospital!

- Deepa.S.Kini, Std.IX, Govt. P.U.College, Udupi

Teacher : Are you good at math?

Pupil : Yes and no.

Teacher : What do you mean?

Pupil : Yes, I'm no good at math!

***

Teacher : What do you do with crude oil ?

Pupil : Teach it some manners !

***

Mother : What did you learn in school today?

Son : How to write.

Mother : What did you write?

Son : I don't know, they haven't taught us to read yet!

- R.M.Mruthula, Std.VII, BVB, Erode

Prashanth : Why didn't you attend Sateesh's party yesterday?

Aditya : 'Cause he said the party was from six to eight and I am 12 years old!

- J.S.S.Nivedita, Std.VII, Chettinad Vidyashram, Chennai

Left, Right, Left

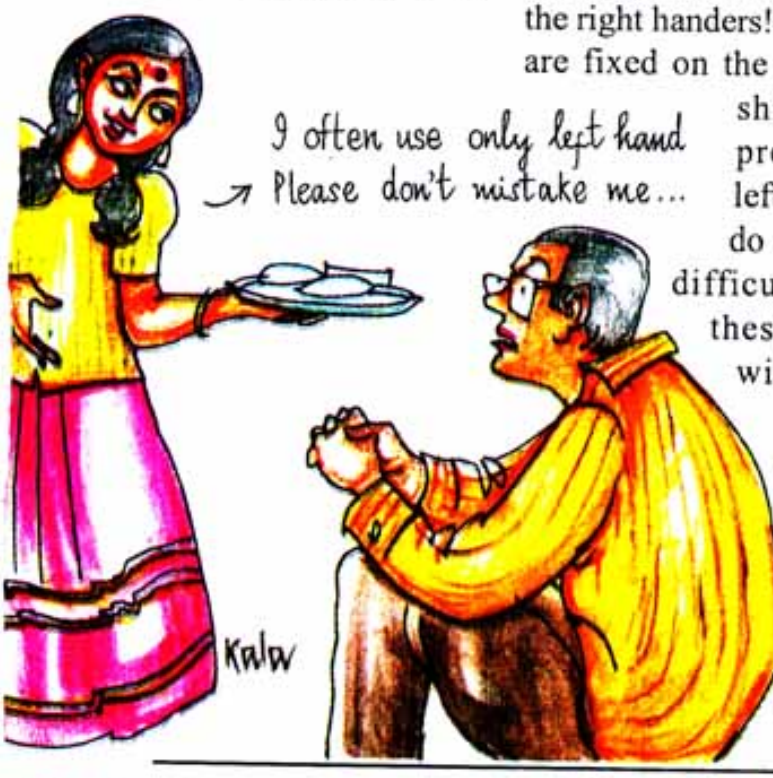
"Hey, you are a leftie!" this is one of the comments which I get to hear quite often. Yes, you guessed it right... I am a natural left hander. And as I was faced with a barrage of questions day in and out about this physical aspect of mine, I decided to do a little bit of research about it.

The first thing I found out was that about seven percent of the world's population was left handed. A few centuries ago left handed people were viewed with suspicion because the left was associated with the devil and witchcraft. Even today, parents of left handed children take great efforts to correct this so-called 'wrong' habit. But modern psychologists are of the opinion that if a child is naturally left handed, he / she should not be forced to use the right hand as this may cause unnecessary trauma to him/ her. Fortunately for me, my parents and teachers were far more accepting and understanding of this trait. Infact, if we go through the history of mankind, we find that quite a few famous men of the world have been left handed. Leonardo-da-Vinci and Michelangelo were both left handed.. so were Beethoven, Issac Newton and Einstein!

If we examine the human body minutely, we will notice that it is no symmetrical. There is a sligh asymmetry between the left and righ side of our body. Generally, the righ side of the body is marginally heavie than the left side. The human brai

is also divided into two hemispheres the right and the left. The function of these parts are varied. The lef half of the brain is dominant in mos of the people. The left part control the right side of our body and vice versa. In such cases, the nerves from the brain cross over to the right side of the body. People having this combination are right handed. Bu in a few people like me, the right par of the brain is dominant. Since the right half controls the left side of the body, people with this combinatior perform all their actions with thei left hand.

Now, another estion arose in my nd. In a class of forty students, I as the lone left hander. Why was at? Why were there so few left nders in comparison to the vast ajority of right handers? Research s been going on for a number of ars in this field and scientists have me up with various answers. They el that genes and the DNA present our body may be responsible for me children being born left nded. But then, in many cases ght handed parents have left nded children, as in my case. So e exact reason has not yet been und.



While I never encountered any major problem, we left handers do have to face a number of minor irritants in our day-to-day life. As the vast majority of the population is right handed all basic equipments have been designed keeping in mind their comforts. Door handles, locks, screw drivers, scissors, musical instruments and many more items are designed for the convenience of the right handers! Even the buttons are fixed on the right side of the shirts and pose a problem for us lefties. Though we do experience some difficulty in handling these items, yet with practice and perseverance we are able to perform all our routine tasks.

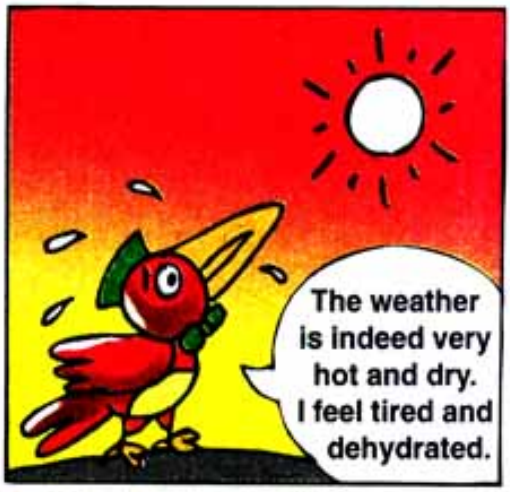
We left handers manage to survive in this right handed world and I do feel that we are unique and special!

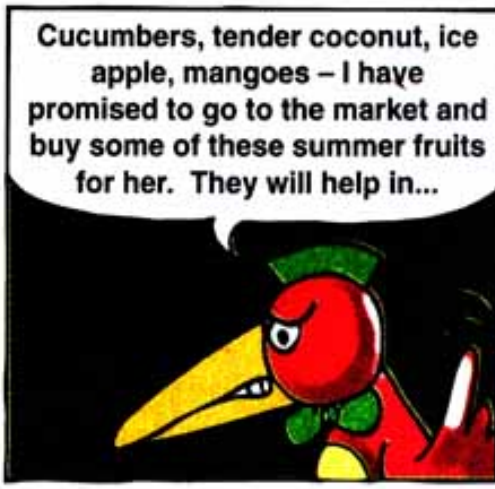
- Nishi, Std.VIII,
St.Mary's Sec. School,
Port Blair

BILLU

Artichudil

Concept, Pictures : PILLAI





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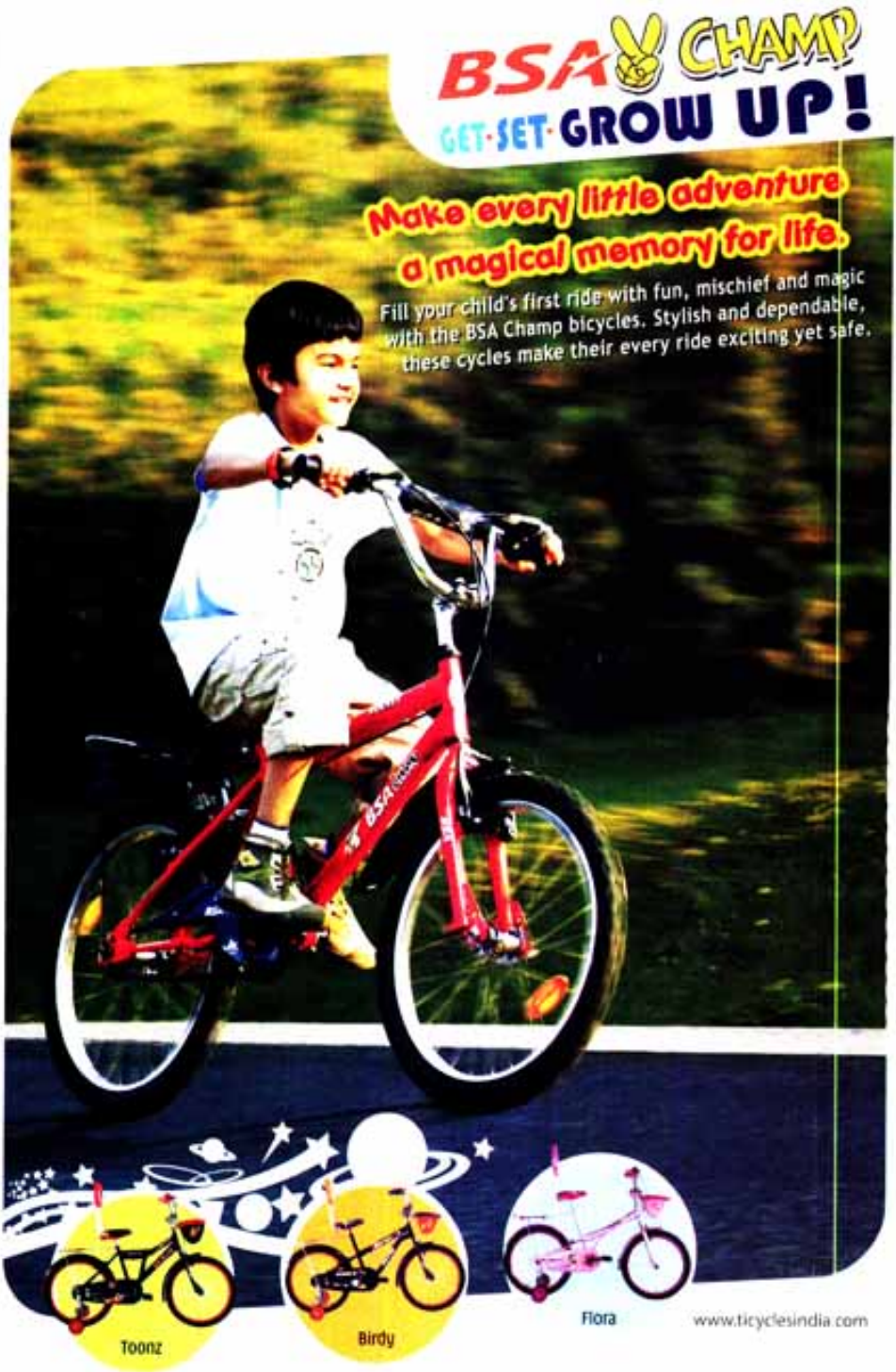
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